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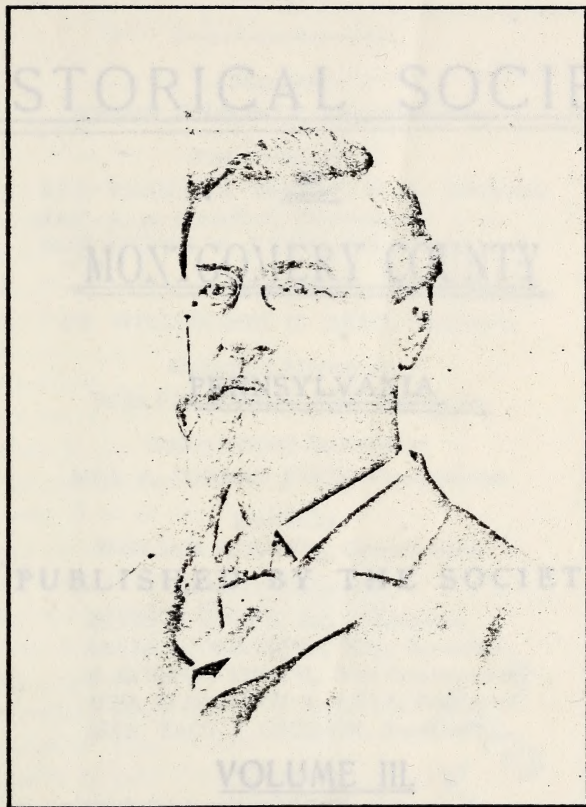
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HISTORICAL SKETCHES

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS PREPARED
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NORRISTOWN, PA.

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1905



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HISTORICAL SKETCHES

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OF THE
Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pa.
1905.
A COLLECTION OF PAPERS PREPARED
FOR THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

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VOLUME III.

NORRISTOWN, PA.:

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A COLLECTION OF PAPERS PREPARED
FOR THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
FRONTISPIECE—HENRY S. DOTTERER.	
HOUSE OF FREDERICK ANTES—Washington's Headquarters, Camp Pottsgrove	10
HEADQUARTERS GEN. WAYNE; BIRTHPLACE OF GEN. JOHN F. HARTRANFT	18
MAP—Site of Camp Pottsgrove, September, 1777	29
STAFF HEADQUARTERS, CAMP POTTS GROVE	35
BARN ON THE BERTOLET FARM	38
TOWAMENSING LOG SCHOOL HOUSE	71
THOMAS WILLIAMS	94
GEN. NASH MONUMENT	122
COL. REED MONUMENT	155
EMMANUEL (LEIDY'S) CHURCH	167
THE GULPH	171
THE GULPH MILLS	188
JOSEPH K. GOTWALS	197
NORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL	204
COPPER MINES AT SHANNONVILLE	222
JOHN BACHMAN, D. D.	226
JOHN J. AUDUBON	233
MILL GROVE FARM	258
UNION SCHOOL—STEWART FUND HALL	331
OLD CROOKED HILL TAVERN	342
POTTSTOWN ABOUT 1835	353
MAP OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY. 1837.	367
MAP OF MADISON COUNTY. 1855	372
MAJOR WILLIAM H. BEAN	384
COL. NATHANIEL MISSIMER ELLIS	392
COPPER MINES AT SHANNONVILLE. C. Williams, Esq.	392
REV. DR. JOHN BACHMAN, STEWART'S CO. LARSEN. Rev. Michael Reed Minister, A.	396
ARTISTS AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS. H. B. Barry W. Knapp	398
AUDUBON. Dr. W. H. Reed	398
CHRISTOPHER BACHMAN, THE AUDUBON HOUSE. H. W. Knapp	398

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
INTRODUCTORY	ix
HENRY S. DOTTERER	i
THE CONTINENTAL ARMY AT CAMP POTTS GROVE. Benjamin Bertolet	9
HISTORY OF FREELAND SEMINARY. Prof. J. S. Weinberger	44
PENNSYLVANIA FEMALE COLLEGE. Mrs. James Warrenne Sunderland	52
SOME UNWRITTEN HISTORY OF TOWAMENSING. John C. Boorse, Esq.	57
TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP. Edward Mathews	67
THE SKIPPACK. Poem. James Y. Heckler	76
CHRIST REFORMED CONGREGATION. Rev. S. M. K. Huber	81
CHRIST LUTHERAN CONGREGATION. Rev. J. L. Becker	85
OLD TIME SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL HOUSES. Thomas Williams	94
CAMP TOWAMENSING. Hon. B. Witman Dambly	114
EARLY PENNSYLVANIA LITERATURE. I. C. Williams, Esq.	123
ASHBOURNE IN ENGLAND AND ASHBORNE IN AMERICA. Rev. S. F. Hotchkin	144
MONUMENT TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JACOB REED	155
HATFIELD TOWNSHIP. Edward Mathews	156
PRIVATE BURYING GROUNDS OF FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP. John D. Souder	161
LEIDY'S CHURCH. Joseph Proctor	167
THE GULPH HILLS IN THE ANNALS OF THE REVOLUTION. Samuel Gordon Smyth	171
THE SCHWENKFELDERS. H. W. Kriebel	189
THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORRISTOWN. Prof. Joseph K. Gotwals	197
LAND OF THE LLEWELLYN AND CAMP DISCHARGE. S. Gordon Smyth	206
COPPER MINES AT SHANNONVILLE. I. C. Williams, Esq.	222
REV. DR. JOHN BACHMAN, AUDUBON'S CO-LABORER. Rev. Michael Reed Minnich, A. M.	226
AUDUBON AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS. Hon. Henry W. Kratz	233
AUDUBON. Dr. W. H. Reed	242
CHRISTOPHER WIEGNER, THE TOWAMENCIN DIARIST. H. W. Kriebel	271

viii HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

	PAGE
FINDING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CANNON. Gen. William J. Bolton . . .	290
WASHINGTON'S ARMY LOCATED SEPTEMBER 20, 21, 1777. Major William H. Bean	294
PENNSYLVANIA'S DONATION TO THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT. Gen. William J. Bolton	300
SOME MAXIMS OF ROBERT MORRIS. Ellis P. Oberholtzer, Ph. D. . . .	303
NUGENT FARM AND COLLEGE AT GULPH MILLS. S. Gordon Smyth . . .	320
UNION SCHOOL AND STEWART FUND HALL. Ellwood Roberts	331
MAJOR ANDRE, A PRISONER AT CROOKED HILL. I. C. Williams, Esq. . .	338
HISTORICAL SKETCH OF POTTSTOWN. Rev. L. Kryder Evans, D. D. . .	345
POTTSTOWN'S EFFORTS TO BECOME A COUNTY SEAT. George F. P. Wanger	367
FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT, PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS, AT BATTLE OF ANTIETAM. Gen. William J. Bolton	379
MAJOR WILLIAM H. BEAN, U. S. A. J. A. Strassburger, Esq.	385
TOWAMENSING MENNONITE MEETING-HOUSE. John C. Boorse, Esq. . .	390
NATHANIEL MISSIMER ELLIS. J. O. K. Robarts	392
BATTLE OF THE CROOKED BILLET. Gen. W. W. H. Davis	396

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In the introduction to the previous volume, a brief sketch of the history of the Society has been given. That is continued here.

Since issuing Volume II the Society has kept steadily at its work. It has grown in numbers, and has prospered, and the interest in its work has been kept up. The regular meetings of the Society have all been held at its building in Norris-town, and were well attended. At most of these meetings local historical papers were read and were commented on and discussed. Several special meetings were also held to hear historical papers read. On the evening of April 26, 1902, an instructive lecture was delivered to the Society by Mr. Harvey Maitland Watts, of the "Philadelphia Press," upon *The War of 1812*. This was illustrated by charts and diagrams which were displayed by means of lantern slides.

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The Society has held its regular autumn meetings at various places within the county outside of Norris-town. Much interest has been taken in these meetings, and they have all been well attended.

INTRODUCTORY.

A volume of historical papers and sketches was published by the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, in 1895, and a second volume was issued in 1900. Both volumes were well received. Since the second volume was published a number of additional historical papers have been read at its meetings, and it has been thought well to print them in this its third volume.

These papers, as were the contents of the preceding volumes, have been prepared for the Society by its members, and most of them were read at its meetings. They have all been written with care and are worth preserving. Accuracy of statement has always been attempted in them, and if misstatements or errors have been made, they are accidental and mostly of minor import.

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The Society has also continued its annual autumn meetings at various places within the county outside of Norristown. Much interest has been taken in these meetings, and they have all been well attended. Since the publication of Volume II such meetings were held at Ashbourne, in Cheltenham township; at Leidy's Church, in Franconia township; at Millgrove Farm, at Audubon, in Lower Providence township, and at Pottstown.

On October 3, 1902, the Pennsylvania-German Society held its annual meeting at Norristown under the auspices of the Historical Society of Montgomery County. Members of both societies participated in the literary exercises, and together visited the ancient Augustus Lutheran Church at Trappe. Afterwards in the evening a banquet was held at Norristown by the two societies. There was a large number present, and several interesting addresses were made.

The Historical Society continues to occupy its building at Norristown—Historical Hall—which it bought in 1896. There it holds its meetings and transacts its business. It uses for its own purpose all of the second-story of the building, consisting of a commodious meeting hall and two library rooms. It also uses the fire proof vault on the first floor. The rest of the building is rented out in order to obtain some revenue, but the Society hopes in time to use the entire building in carrying out its good work.

While the Montgomery County Court House was being rebuilt this Society rented its Hall to the Commissioners of the county to be used for the Judges' offices and for the County Law Library. This continued from May, 1902, to June, 1904. During this time the three Judges occupied these rooms in which they transacted their business. Many legal hearings took place there. The books of the County Law Library were placed on shelves in the rooms and were daily consulted by the lawyers. The Historical Society stored away its own books and historical collections and vacated the premises, reserving

only the privilege of holding its meetings in its rooms at such times as would not incommode its tenants. Through this the work of the Society was hindered to some extent during this period, but it was the sentiment of the Society that its duty was to furnish this accommodation to the community, the County Commissioners being unable to secure any other acceptable place for the purpose. The rent received was appropriated towards reducing the indebtedness of the Society.

When Historical Hall was bought the Society was compelled to mortgage it for \$4000. By energy and thrift the Society has raised money from time to time and paid it on account of the mortgage until it has been reduced to \$2000. The lady members of the Society, zealous for its welfare, gave suppers and entertainments for its benefit. The net proceeds of these have been applied towards repairs of the property of the Society and towards reducing the mortgage. Of the amount paid on account of the mortgage \$1500 was the result of their labors. The other \$500 was paid from the rent received from the County Commissioners during the time the Judges and the County Law Library occupied our rooms.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1901 enacted a law authorizing the County Commissioners of the respective counties of the State to appropriate not over \$200 annually towards the maintenance of the historical society of their county. Application for such an appropriation to this Society was made to the Commissioners of this county in 1901, 1902 and 1903, but they declined to grant it. In 1904 a new board of Commissioners on application granted an appropriation of \$200 to the Society, and they have just made a second appropriation of \$200 for the year 1905. Although nearly a quarter of a century had elapsed since this Society was established, it never before received any outside help. No pecuniary gifts, donations or legacies were bestowed on it. Its revenues, never sufficient for the work it would like to do, were derived from the initiation fees and dues of its members. The proceeds of the entertainments given by the lady members repaired the real estate and cut down the mortgage. The rents received

assisted materially in paying the interest on the mortgage, the taxes and the coal bill.

The work of this Society consists chiefly in holding meetings for hearing papers and addresses on local history by its members and others, and in discussing these papers; in establishing an historical library; in collecting an historical museum; in preserving historical localities; in cultivating a general interest in local history; and in assisting all historical and genealogical research. The work of the Society could be much extended, and its usefulness in the community could be largely increased if its financial resources were greater. It earnestly asks for help in the nature of an endowment.

The library of the Society continues to grow, largely through donations; the most valuable recent gift being eleven volumes of Historical Notes and Queries by Dr. W. H. Egle, purchased and donated by several members of the Society. The Society has bought other books; but its means are too slender to permit its spending as much in that direction as it would like. Still its collection of local historical matter is already creditable and valuable. It consists largely of local sketches, histories of townships, churches, schools and societies located within the county, biographies, school catalogues, lists of members of old local societies and organizations, genealogies, old directories, old newspaper files, old deeds and patents for land, historical documents and letters, and old books. The Society gladly receives donations of all such books and documents and historical matter. It has also received a number of donations of interesting historical relics which it will exhibit in an historical museum.

Local History Day for Montgomery county as established by this Society is observed by many of the public schools of the county, members of the Society often participating in the exercises. The day occurs each year on the nineteenth of December, being the anniversary of the day when the Continental Army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge in 1777.

In order to incite interest in local history the Society has from time to time offered and awarded as prizes its own publications or money for the best essays by pupils of the public

schools of the county on historical topics named by the Society. There have been satisfactory responses to this on the part of the school children, and their essays have been very creditable.

The tomb of General W. S. Hancock, in the Montgomery Cemetery, at Norristown, has become dilapidated and needs much repair. Properly it should be rebuilt. The attention of the Society has been called to this, and its assistance has been asked for. The Society has considered the matter, and has appointed a committee, of which the chairman is Hon. I. P. Wanger, to investigate and act. The committee is endeavoring to secure permission of the surviving family of General Hancock to make these necessary repairs, and also to collect requisite funds for the purpose. General Hancock was always proud to call Norristown his home, and specially requested that he should be buried there in the tomb he had built. His illustrious career is a brilliant chapter in the history of the nation, and it is the duty of this community to cherish his memory and to preserve his tomb from decay.

This Society now has in all four hundred members, of whom eighteen are life members. A list of its members appears in this volume. The Society constantly seeks to increase its membership and to enlarge the number of those interested in its work. Active and working members are specially desired.

While the Society is glad to have its members take an active part, yet it does not require anyone to do so. The duties of a member are no more onerous than the member cares to make them. Members are elected at all meetings of the Society. The initiation fee is \$1, which must accompany the proposition of each member. The dues are fifty cents a year. The cost of a life membership is \$25.

Since publishing Volume II the Society has lost by death a number of members. Two life members, Mrs. Alice A. Roberts and Thomas Williams, have passed away. Among its most active members who have died since then are Mrs. Anna M. Holstein, Jones Detwiler, Rev. Matthias Sheeleigh, William J. Buck, Henry S. Dotterer, Howard Lloyd, Howard M. Jenkins, W. H. Bean,

R. F. Hoffecker, Frederick Phillips, Charles Lukens, E. P. Gresh, John C. Sims, Edward E. Long, E. L. Acker, A. F. Baker, Samuel L. Cowden, Ida M. Smith, H. P. Egbert, S. M. Garrigues, Mrs. Frank Roop, Mrs. Joseph E. Rapp, Mrs. Philip E. Le Munyon, Mrs. Elizabeth Ortlip, Mrs. Alice Roberts Brown, James Coulston, Elizabeth A. Anderson, Mary Rex and Prof. Joseph K. Gotwals.

A movement has recently been made to form a State Federation of County Historical Societies of Pennsylvania. This Society heartily coöperates with the movement, and has formally joined the Federation. Much benefit to historical research must necessarily accrue from such an organization.

The Society contemplates publishing a periodical devoted to local historical matters.

The Society again returns thanks to the community for its interest, its encouragement and its assistance. It will go on with its work hoping for a continuance of your favors.

JOSEPH FORNANCE,
DR. W. H. REED,
HENRY W. KRATZ,
MRS. A. CONRAD JONES,
Committee on Publication.

Norristown, Pa., December 1, 1905.

HENRY SASSAMAN DOTTERER.

1841—1903.

By Prof. Wm. J. Hinke.

[In the death of Henry S. Dotterer the Historical Society of Montgomery County sustained a severe loss. He became a member of the Society soon after its formation, and continued active therein during the rest of his life. At its celebration of the centennial of the formation of Montgomery county, in 1884, he was one of its hardest workers. He arranged and classified the numerous exhibits of its loan exhibition. A detailed list of the exhibits and the exhibitors, carefully prepared by him, appears in the published account of the proceedings of that occasion. From that time until his death he rarely failed to attend the meetings of the Society. He also prepared and read before the Society several valuable historical papers, and in other ways he rendered it great service. His career, and his merits as a historian, are set forth in a paper by Prof. Wm. J. Hinke, in the Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society (Vol. II, page 243), which follows.]

Henry Sassaman Dotterer was born in Frederick township, Montgomery county, Pa., on February 16th, 1841. He was descended from a sturdy Pennsylvania German family, whose ancestor, George Philip "Dodderer," came to Pennsylvania before the year 1722. His father, Philip Dotterer, also born in Frederick township, married, on February 2d, 1840, Priscilla Sassaman. The union was blessed with four children, of whom Henry was the oldest. His place of birth was a large stone house, erected by his grandfather, Conrad Dotterer, in 1813, on the road forming the dividing line between New Hanover and Frederick townships, about three miles east of the village of Sumneytown.

The parents of Mr. Dotterer, belonging to the Reformed Church, had the child baptized on May 16th, 1841, by the Rev. Henry S. Bassler, pastor of Keelor's German Reformed congregation, also located in Montgomery county. The sponsors were Henry Gilbert and wife.

During the years 1848-1850 Henry attended the public schools near his home.

On March 22d, 1852, Philip Dotterer and his family removed to Norristown, in the same county, in order that his children might enjoy the advantages of the superior public

schools of the borough. He remained in Norristown for three years. During this period he attended the Oak street public school and in 1853 Treemount Seminary, a noted school for boys, conducted by the Rev. Samuel Aaron. In the fall of 1855 a school of higher grade was opened in the Sunday-school building near Keelor's Reformed Church, first named "Philomathic Institute," but later was known as "Frederick Institute." Cyrus F. Guildin was its principal. Henry attended this school for about half a year.

On March 10th, 1856, he began a three years' apprenticeship in the printing office of Dr. E. L. Acker, proprietor of the *Norristown Register*, a weekly Democratic newspaper. He had long before chosen this trade, although his parents did not favor his selection, but would have preferred that he follow the trade of a carpenter.

From September, 1859, to May, 1860, Henry attended the boarding and day school of John W. Loch. It was known as "DeKaib Institute." This school later on was merged in Treemount Seminary, previously established by Rev. Mr. Aaron, and was afterwards conducted by Mr. Loch. In this school a number of young men received their training, who became distinguished in later life. The most prominent were: General John F. Hartranft, afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania; General John Brooke; Admiral Frederick V. McNair; John Fornance, Engineer U. S. Navy, and Captain James Fornance, 13th Infantry, U. S. Army.

On Saturday, April 7th, 1860, Henry was confirmed a member of the Reformed Church of the Ascension, Norristown, Pa., Rev. P. S. Davis, D. D., being the pastor at that time.

In September, 1861, he assumed the principalship of Sandy Hill Secondary School, which he conducted for the remainder of the year.

In the following year Mr. Dotterer went to Philadelphia, where he became a clerk in the office of Mr. Charles Burnham, manufacturer of druggists' tinware. After a few years he entered the employ of Wanamaker & Brown, clothiers, at Sixth and Market streets, Philadelphia, as cashier and book-

keeper. This position he soon resigned to take the place of cashier and bookkeeper in the office of Peter Wright & Sons, shippers and importers, Philadelphia. He remained with this firm for eighteen years, acting at the same time as their confidential man, till December 31st, 1882.

Mr. Dotterer was married on June 20th, 1876, to Rebecca S. Shelly, daughter of Dr. A. F. and Elizabeth S. Shelly. The marriage ceremony took place in the old historic Race Street Reformed Church, the pastor, Rev. David Van Horne, D. D., officiating. The only child of this union died in infancy.

In 1883-84 Mr. Dotterer was general manager of the "Empire Company Limited," of New York City.

In 1890-91 he spent nearly a year in Anthony, Kansas, where he was looking after investments of eastern capitalists, when he was recalled to Philadelphia by Mr. William R. Wright, treasurer of the city of Philadelphia, to act as his assistant. In 1893, having a great desire to see the World's Fair Exposition and expecting to take up a line of congenial work, he went to Chicago. He was appointed assistant to Mr. Gilbert Shaw, the city's banker, in the office of the city treasurer, holding this place until again recalled to Philadelphia to become cashier and accountant for Smith, Kline & French Co.

When Mr. Sydney L. Wright accepted the treasurership of the National Export Exposition, held in Philadelphia in 1899, Mr. Dotterer became his assistant as auditor of the exposition. During the short existence of the exposition a million and a quarter of money was handled.

For the last three years of his life Mr. Dotterer was assistant treasurer of the Philadelphia Commercial Museums. This position he resigned on December 31st, 1902, to accept the position of private secretary to Governor-elect Samuel W. Pennypacker. But before he could enter upon the duties of his new and important office he was taken ill in December, 1902, and after a short illness passed away on January 10th, 1903.

Shortly after his marriage Mr. Dotterer became a member of the First Reformed Church, now located at Tenth and Wallace streets, Philadelphia. On September 4th, 1882, he

was chosen deacon, on March 25th, 1884, elder, and on January 26th, 1885, secretary of the Board of Trustees, which position he held up to the time of his death. He took special pride in writing its record and in preserving all papers that might be of interest to those living in the future. The minutes of the last meeting which he wrote appropriately close the record book. He was deeply interested in the history of the congregation, and at various times took prominent part in historical celebrations. When the Sesqui-Centennial of the Reformed Church was held from September 26-29th, 1897, he read an interesting paper on "Some Persons and Places in Reformed History." In connection with this celebration an historical exhibit was held, for which Mr. Dotterer gathered many articles of value and interest. He was also one of the managers of the splendid Reformed exhibit, held in the rooms of the Presbyterian Historical Society, during the meeting of the General Assembly in 1901. When this exhibit was repeated, in the fall of the same year, in Heidelberg Reformed Church, during the sessions of the Eastern Synod of the Reformed Church, Mr. Dotterer contributed materially to its success. His last active work was in connection with the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the First Church, held on October 26th, 1902.

He was a member of "The Historical Society of Pennsylvania," "The Pennsylvania-German Society," "The Pennsylvania Sons of the Revolution," "The Montgomery County Historical Society," and "The Presbyterian Historical Society." Of the latter society he became a member in January, 1901, and was at the same time elected to represent the Reformed Church in its Executive Council.

The favorite pursuit of Mr. Dotterer was history, the local history of the county in which he was born and the history of the Church of which he was an honored member. Most of his researches as a local historian appeared in the successive issues of the *Weekly Item*, a newspaper published in Schwenksville, Pa. The following are the more important articles which he contributed to that paper, beginning with October, 1879, and extending to March, 1886:

"Falkner Swamp," "Henry Melchior Muhlenberg," "Doctor John Miller of Frederick Township," "The Grave of Henry Antes," "The Moravian School in Frederick," "Henry Antes," "Gottlieb Mittelberger's Travels Through Pennsylvania, 1750-54," "Early History of Douglas Township," "Jacob Reiff of Salford," "Skippack Reformed Church."

Fortunately, Mr. Dotterer gathered all these articles in a scrap-book, which he deposited in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, so that his valuable contributions are readily accessible to students.

In the centennial celebration of Montgomery County, held in September, 1884, at Norristown, Pa., Mr. Dotterer acted as a member of the Committee on Publication. He prepared for the official record an alphabetical list of exhibits and exhibitors. He also wrote the account of Frederick township for the *History of Montgomery County*, published in 1884.

He edited three volumes of a periodical called the *The Perkiomen Region*, Philadelphia, September, 1895, to April, 1901. In connection with this publication he did his most enduring work. A prominent historian, Governor Pennypacker, wrote with reference to these volumes: "In my opinion, in painstaking care and in that kind of research and apt presentation which indicate the true historical instinct, they excel in merit anything of the kind which has heretofore been attempted in Pennsylvania."

The secret of Mr. Dotterer's success in local history lay in his thorough knowledge of local genealogy. He had gathered a great mass of information about all the more prominent families of Montgomery county, from its earliest settlement to the present day. He had laboriously secured this information from church records, tombstones, family Bibles, county records, wills, and deeds. He even went to Europe to search for the antecedents of German settlers of Montgomery county. This thorough familiarity with the genealogies of the early settlers he evinced especially in *The Descendants of Jacob Markley, of Skippack, Montgomery County, Pa.*, 1884, and in the *Genealogy of the Dotterer Family*, since published by his widow.

His most important contributions to Reformed Church history, besides those already mentioned, are the following: "Rev. John Philip Boehm, Philadelphia, 1890"; "Whitemarsh Congregation in the Holland Archives," read before the Montgomery County Historical Society, September 23d, 1897, and "The Church at Market Square, Germantown, Philadelphia, 1899."

In the interest of history and genealogy Mr. Dotterer, accompanied by his wife, made a trip to Europe, extending from November, 1895, to August, 1896. He visited England, Holland, France, Germany, and Switzerland. Space forbids to tell of all his interesting finds. We can only refer to some of the more important. At Dort, Holland, he found an important list of French galley slaves.

At Frankfort-on-the Main, Germany, he discovered an interesting appeal from the first Reformed colony in Virginia.

At Zurich he found an important letter of Pastorius, describing the founding of Germantown.

But his most important discovery was made at The Hague, Holland, where he found the whole correspondence between the German Reformed Church of Pennsylvania and the Church of Holland, which had been carefully stored away in the Dutch archives for more than a century, undisturbed by anybody. It will be most appropriate to give the story of this important discovery in Mr. Dotterer's own words:

"On the morning of January 7, 1896, my first visit was made to the archives. Upon arrival at 84 Java street, Mr. Welter, the caretaker of the General Synod's building and library, showed me the meeting room of the Synod, where a cheerful fire of English hard coal was radiating a grateful warmth. Upon the table were lying two volumes of manuscripts, marked respectively, *Pennsylvanica* Vol. I, and *Pennsylvanica* A. Beside them was a printed book entitled *Catalogus van het oud Synodaal Archief*, a work of 196 pages, containing the names of the books in the library, and an index to the manuscripts of the old Provincial Archives.

"In a tremor of anticipation, I opened the MS. volumes, which were no other than the much-desired Pennsylvania letters. Since these writings left our far-off shores, one hundred to one hundred and seventy years ago, no Pennsylvanian had

seen them: my hands, nervous with excitement, were the first to turn the venerable leaves; my eager eyes the first to scan these precious treasures. Here were the messages from beyond the sea, . . . from Dorsius and Boehm, from Weiss and Levlich, from Reiger, Schlatter, Stoy, Lischy, Otterbein, and others of the Reformed clergy; from the Presbyterians, Kennedy and Tennent; the Lutherans, Brunnholtz and Muehlenberg; from Chandler of London; from Dr. and Captain Diemer and merchant Arend Hassert, Jr., Secretary Richard Peters, and Mayer Lawrence, of Philadelphia; requests, inquiries, and complaints from the churches at Philadelphia, Skippack, Germantown, Tulpehocken, and of Bucks county; minutes of Coetus, controversial pamphlets, reports of lawsuits, financial statements; written in German, Dutch, Latin, French, and English; a wealth of manuscript information bearing upon the general and church history of Pennsylvania nowhere equalled abroad, with the possible exception of London. Besides the two bound volumes, there is a portfolio, containing letters and documents relating to the Church of Pennsylvania; a bundle of papers concerning foreign churches and persons, among which is a large roll relating to Pennsylvania; another bundle regarding remittance of funds to the Waldenses and the churches of Lithuania and Pennsylvania; and account books, entitled *Kapitaal-boekjes*, containing the record of the treasurer of the investment of funds for the benefit of the Pennsylvania and other mission churches.

"To examine this great collection was the work of nearly two months."

The discovery of these documents was an invaluable service which Mr. Dotterer rendered the Reformed Church, for thereby the long-lost link between the two churches was again recovered. Other Reformed historians have since visited these archives, at Mr. Dotterer's suggestion. Through their labors all the documents at The Hague, bearing on the Pennsylvania Reformed Church, were copied or photographed. The most important of them, the *Coetus Minutes*, have since been published.

With the help of this new material Mr. Dotterer published the *Historical Notes Relating to the Pennsylvania Reformed Church*, Philadelphia, 1900. The last historical studies of Mr. Dotterer were embodied in a series of short articles, which

he contributed in 1902 to *The Gleaner*, the little monthly paper of the First Reformed Church.

Mr. Dotterer died in the midst of his plans for future usefulness on January 10th, 1903. The funeral services were held on January 14th, at his home, 1605 North Thirteenth street. The services were conducted by his pastor, the Rev. E. F. Wiest, assisted by the Rev. Dr. S. A. Ziengeniuss and the Rev. Dr. James Crawford. Many of his friends were present at the funeral services, to show their love and respect for the departed. He was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

THE CONTINENTAL ARMY AT CAMP POTTSGROVE.

By Benjamin Bertolet, Philadelphia.

I write you an account of General Washington's encampment back of the upper range of hills in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania.

I will try to supply the lost link in the account of Washington's retreat with his army, after the Battle of Brandywine, to the western hills of Montgomery (then Philadelphia) county. There he encamped near Fagleysville and called it Camp Pottsgrove. His headquarters were at the house of Colonel Frederick Antes.

The histories state that Washington retreated to Pottsgrove, now Pottstown, or to Reading, on or about the 19th day of September, 1777. But from this date for several days we lose all trace of Washington and his army. No writer of historical events seems to know what became of the Continental Army from September 19th to September 26th, 1777.

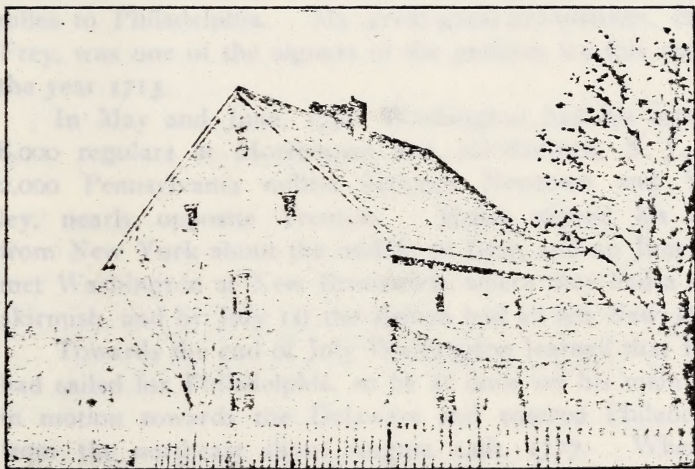
The next we hear again of Washington and his army is on September 26th, 1777, on the western hillside of Schwenksville, Pa., and at Pennypacker's Mill, on the east side of the Perkiomen creek, opposite Schwenksville. Here is an interval of seven days omitted from the histories.

The neighborhood tradition is that Washington's army encamped in the Crooked Hills (in Pottsgrove, New Hanover, Limerick, Frederick and Perkiomen townships), but nothing definite has been written on the subject. So I decided to collect and write out these facts for the benefit of our Historical Society.

The History of Berks County, by Morton L. Montgomery (page 124), states that the nearest point to Berks county that Washington reached was when on September 21st, 1777, he and his army were in Pottsgrove township, now

Montgomery county, about four miles southeast of Pottstown, the British having moved after him up the west side of the Schuylkill river. He remained there until the 26th of September. This was twenty miles east of Reading, or about six miles east from the Berks county line.

Four miles below Pottstown is the entrance to the Crooked Hills, where a part of the army entered. These hills were thus named by the Continental Army. The Crooked Hill Hotel is an old landmark, and has been well known by that name for generations. Battalion Days were celebrated there by the militia companies of that district. But of late years it has assumed the name of Sanatoga Hotel, from the Sanatoga creek, which has its source in these hills, and ripples through the rocky gorges and empties into the Schuylkill river, at the Reading Railway station, also of that name.



HOUSE OF COL. FREDERICK ANTES
Headquarters of Gen. Washington, September 21 to 25, 1777

Sanatoga Park is also located there, and the village of Sanatoga extends west of the hotel, along the Philadelphia and Pottstown and Reading turnpike for at least half a mile, to where the post office of Sanatoga is now located in a country store. There the main crossroad leads off northeast to the

Continental Campground, at Fagleysville, and thence to Antes' Mill (afterwards Bertolet's, and now Henry Grubb's Mill), on the Swamp creek. The road forks at the mill. The east branch runs to Green Tree Hotel, an old landmark, and the north branch leads to Colonel Frederick Antes' residence (then a part of the mill farm, now divided into four farms), thence to the Samuel Bertolet farm of 200 acres (now divided into farms, on one of which the Bertolet's Mennonite Meeting House is located), and thence to the Zacharia Nyce farm, the present owner being Irwin W. Stetler. Here are located Stetler's store and the Frederick post office. The place is now named Frederick.

Frederick is on the Great road, known as the Skippack and back Swamp road, that leads from Flourtown through Skippack, Schwenksville and Zieglersville to New Hanover Square, where the last milestone was planted, in 1771, which reads 36 miles to Philadelphia. My great-great grandfather, Henry Frey, was one of the signers of the petition for this road in the year 1713.

In May and June, 1777, Washington had his army of 8,000 regulars at Morristown and Middletown, N. J., and 2,000 Pennsylvania militia between Newtown and Yardley, nearly opposite Trenton. Howe moved his army from New York about the middle of June, and on June 26th met Washington at New Brunswick, where they had a small skirmish, and by July 1st the British had all left New Jersey.

Towards the end of July Washington learned that Howe had sailed for Philadelphia, so he at once set his main body in motion towards the Delaware and entered Philadelphia from the northeast about August 14th, 1777. When he learned that the British under Howe did not come up the Delaware, but instead had landed at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, Washington at once marched to meet him, and had advanced beyond the Brandywine creek when Howe's superior forces compelled him to fall back to the east side of that creek. At Chadd's Ford, on the Brandywine, he made a stand, and fought a severe battle September 11th, 1777. Outnumbered by the British, Washington's army was badly defeated, but not

discouraged. His loss was 300 killed, 600 wounded and 400 taken prisoners. He lost also 10 field pieces and a howitzer. The British loss was 500 killed and wounded.

Here is an incident that John Fagley, the militia man I mention hereafter, used to relate. The Pennsylvania militia were not engaged at the Brandywine, but were in reserve on the main road leading to Chester, and were in charge of the wagon-train with stores. Chadd's Ford is some distance above the Chester road, and while our troops were crossing at the ford the enemy opened fire on them, and the water of the Brandywine was dyed red with blood from the killed and wounded soldiers, and the ford was blocked with the fallen men. This was told me by his grandson, Frederick Fagley.

Washington was in command in person, while a part of the enemy fell upon the command of Sullivan near the Birmingham Meeting House. The battle continued until evening, and that night the shattered army retreated to Chester.

I will refer to some of Washington's letters showing his marches from the Battle of Brandywine up to Camp Pottsgrove.

Thursday, September 11th, 1777, Washington writes as follows, after the Battle of Brandywine:

"Chester, 12 o'clock at night.

"I am sorry to inform you that in this day's engagement we have been compelled to leave the enemy master of the field. I have directed all the troops to assemble behind Chester, where they are arranging for this night. Notwithstanding the misfortunes of the day I am happy to find the troops in good spirits; and I hope another time we shall compensate for the loss now sustained.

"To President of Congress.

Washington."

The following day the army journeyed to West Philadelphia hillsides and along the Lancaster road to guard the city and keep in touch with the enemy, while a part of the army moved on the east side of the Schuylkill, at or near the Falls of Schuylkill, and encamped on the old campground on the eastern hillside.

A Note taken from the Orderly Book:

At Schuylkill Falls on Saturday, September 13th, 1777, General Washington issued this proclamation: "With peculiar satis-

faction I thank the gallant officers and soldiers who on the 11th inst. bravely fought in their country's cause; although the events of the day, from some unfortunate circumstances, were not so favorable as could be wished. The General has the satisfaction of assuring the troops that from every account he has been able to obtain the enemy's loss exceeded ours."

Five days later the two armies met again, on the 16th of September, when they had a skirmish about a mile south of Warren Tavern, on the Lancaster road, at least two miles west from Paoli Tavern, but were prevented from a general engagement by a heavy rain storm.

"Leaving Schuylkill Falls,

"Sunday, September 14th, 1777.

"The army having yesterday cleaned their arms, and received ammunition to complete forty rounds per man, this day marched up a few miles to Matson's Ford, the water being nearly to the waist. We advanced 5 or 6 miles that night.

"To President of Congress.

Washington."

This forward movement is supposed to have been up Ridge road to Barren Hill and thence to Conshohocken, and then across the Schuylkill into Chester county, by several divisions, but on the following day Washington writes again:

"At the Buck Tavern, Monday, September 15th, 1777, 3 P. M.

"We are moving up this road (the Old Lancaster road) to get between the enemy and Swede's Ford and to prevent them from turning our right flank.

"To President of Congress.

Washington."

The Buck Tavern, about 9 miles northwest of Philadelphia on the old Lancaster road, Delaware county, Pa., a well-known hostelry of its day, is still standing, but occupied as a private house. The army advanced the same day 13 miles farther up the road to a point near the junction of the Swede's Ford road, northwest of Warren Tavern, in Chester county, and encamped between that point and the White Horse Tavern. Washington making his headquarters at the residence of Joseph Mabis, about one-quarter of a mile west of the Warren Tavern. This house is still standing.

"Tuesday, September 16th, 1777.

"Battle near White Horse Tavern, north of Paoli.

"About nine in the morning we were informed that the enemy were advancing towards us. The troops got under arms and the baggage was sent off. An advance party of the enemy attacked our pickets just posted, about 300 strong, who shamefully fled at the first fire. About this time it began to rain such a violent storm that the arms were unfit for use, and orders were given to march to the Yellow Springs, a distance of 5 miles to the northward, where the troops arrived about 10 P. M.

"To President of Congress.

Washington."

"At the Yellow Springs, Chester county, Pa.

"Wednesday, September 17th, 1777.

"Yesterday the enemy moved from Concord by the Edgemont road towards the Lancaster road with the evident design to gain our right flank. This obliged us to alter our position and march from this place, from whence we intend immediately to proceed to Warwick Furnace.

"We suffered much from the severe weather yesterday and last night, being unavoidably separated from our tents and baggage.

"To President of Congress.

Washington."

"Thursday, September 18th, 1777.

"At Warwick Furnace, Chester county, Pa.

"The army here is so much fatigued that it is impossible I should move them this afternoon.

"To General Wayne.

Washington."

Warwick Furnace, on the French creek, cast 60 cannon in 1776 for the army; 12 and 18 pounds.

"At Parker's Ford.

"Friday, September 19th, 1777.

"I am now repassing the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford (now Lawrenceville), with the main body of the army, which will be over in an hour or two, though it is deep and rapid. As soon as the troops have crossed the river I shall march them as rapidly as possible towards Fatland, Swede's and other fords, where it is most probable the enemy will attempt to cross.

"To President of Congress.

Washington."

Parker's Ford is 7 miles above Phoenixville and 5 miles below Pottstown, and is in line with his march across the

country to the Colonial Great road, at the Trappe, from whence he directed his army to march southeast, to intercept the enemy, in case it would move westward. The enemy's object was to get past Washington to destroy the stores at Reading.

From Muhlenberg's Journal, September 19th, 1777.

"The army marched southward from Parker's Ford, on the east side of the river, by way of the Trappe (a village on the Reading road 25 miles from Philadelphia) as far as Perkiomen creek, where it encamped. His Excellency George Washington was with the army in person, who marched past here (Trappe) to the Perkiomen.

"The procession lasted the whole night, and we had numerous visits from officers wet, breast high, who had to march in this condition the whole night, cold and damp as it was, and to bear hunger and thirst at the same time.

"On the 21st the enemy having moved rapidly up the road on the west side of the Schuylkill toward Reading, Washington marched the troops to within four miles of Pottsgrove (now Pottstown) eight miles above the Trappe. Here he remained until the 26th, when he moved to the Pennebacker's Mills, on the Perkiomen, 9 miles to the eastward."

In Marshall's "Life of Washington" we are told that on the 19th day of September, 1777, Washington and his army encamped on both sides of the Perkiomen creek, in Providence township, and that the camp extended from the Trappe to the lower end of Evansburg.

Botta, who wrote forty-five years after the massacre of Paoli, September 20th, states that General Wayne with 1500 picked men was detailed on the 17th of September from the Yellow Springs to guard and protect the crossing of Washington's main army and then join General Armstrong, in command of the militia and wagon-train with stores, &c., who was crossing at Parker's Ford at the time. General Wayne was encamped in a very retired position on the night of September 19th and 20th. The British, hearing of him from Tories, sent the cruel General Gray early in the morning to harass and cut off General Wayne's party.

Stealing his way through the woods and up the narrow gorge, he drove in the American pickets and rushed upon the

camp. General Wayne was compelled to retreat with his small army in great disorder and follow General Armstrong. The result was a loss of 150 killed, wounded and prisoners.

Harry G. Hitner, of Philadelphia, says his grandfather used to say that General Wayne encamped on part of his farm, between Chester Valley Hill and Beaver Hill, on the road that leads to Yellow Springs (Chester Springs).

I made a visit to this place on September 20th, 1900, the one hundred and twenty-third anniversary of the battle. It is located about two and a half-miles west of Paoli, near Malvern, one mile south of this place on the Lancaster road, and on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, about twenty-one miles from Philadelphia. On September 20th, 1817, a small marble monument was erected there in memory of the occurrence. The corners are very much defaced.

On September 20th, 1877, another monument of granite was erected on the centre of the mound by the citizens of Chester and Delaware counties, that being the centennial of the massacre. About this monument is a small iron fence or railing, and within this enclosure there are at rest the remains of fifty-three American soldiers who were killed in that attack.

While standing on this sacred spot I thought of the remark of Betta when I looked through the narrow gorge, running south from this place, in which it is said the Brandywine has its source. From French Creek Wayne was detached with his division to cut off Howe and prevent him from capturing our baggage and hospital train. General Wayne set off in the night and by a circuitous march got within three miles of the enemy at Tredyffrin and concealed himself in a wood and awaited the arrival of General Smallwood and his militia.

General Gray, with a strong detachment, was sent to surprise General Wayne at night in his camp. The first indication of the enemy was at 12 o'clock, when the pickets were driven in. General Wayne set up a strong defense on the right of his position to cover the retreat of the left, in which he was cruelly defeated at the point of the bayonet. The enemy, however, contented themselves with the blow and re-

tired, taking with them between seventy and eighty prisoners and four baggage wagons heavily laden.

General Wayne was a daring and dashing soldier, and after he was detailed to guard and protect the American army while crossing the Schuylkill river conceived the idea to make a raid on the enemy some five miles below the Beaver Mountain, where General Smallwood remained and held the camp as established. General Wayne started out with his bright aim to deal a heavy blow, one writer says, on the enemy's stores and provision train, but instead of his dealing the heavy blow the enemy dealt it on him.

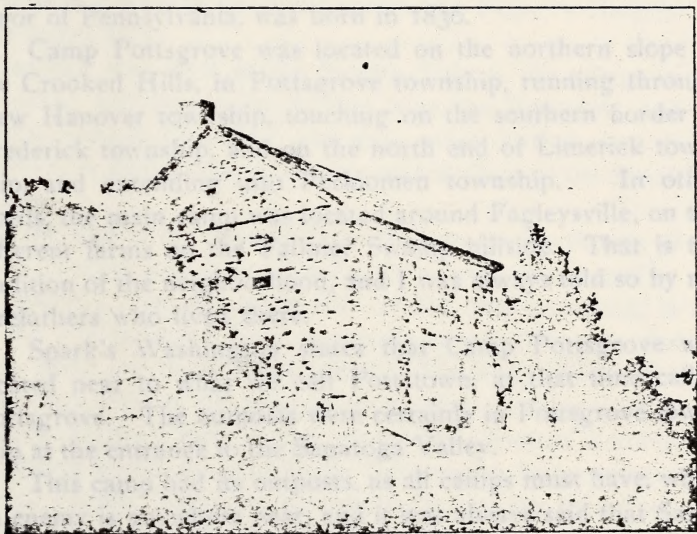
My grandfather, Samuel Bertolet, served under General Wayne at Paoli. His account of it was handed down by his son, Daniel Bertolet (my father), and my two brothers, Abraham and John Bertolet.

He said that General Wayne was taken by surprise in Chester county one night by the British, and so demoralized was his little battalion that when they reached the militia camp they were in a regular stampede. General Wayne expected the militia to form a line of defense, but in vain. They also retreated in confusion. The enemy, however, did not follow General Wayne's retreat. The same morning the teams were ordered back to bury the dead and gather the wounded, which were taken to Camp Pottsgrove hospital, which was established in the Reformed Church at Falkner Swamp. My grandfather's team was one of those ordered back, and he brought his load of wounded to the Reformed Church, at the Swamp, which was used for a hospital.

Afterwards some were also brought to this church from the Battle of Germantown, its use as a hospital having continued from the previous encampment.

Samuel Bertolet also participated in that engagement with his team. While going to the battle he was loaded with provisions, and coming back he had some captured shell which he dumped in the creek near his springhouse on his farm, and a full load of wounded soldiers, which he took to the Swamp Church hospital, but the most of the wounded from this battle were placed in Keely's Church, at Schwenksville.

On September 20th, 1777, General Wayne, with his forces, and the militia with the stores, all crossed the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford, as most of the teams had crossed the day before and in good marching order, and started at once for Camp Pottsgrove, via Limerick Church, and thence up the Great road to the Crooked Hill Valley, now Sanatoga Valley, in Pottsgrove township, at what is now called Jacksonville school house. There the outposts remained and the pickets were stationed. This place was well guarded, as this ridge was the first elevation north of the Great road below Pottstown, where the outposts had full control of the Great road, and a line of battle several miles long could have been formed in case the enemy had followed our army.



HEADQUARTERS OF GEN. WAYNE, September 20 to 26, 1777
Birthplace of Gov. John F. Hartranft in 1830

The militia encampment with the stores was about one mile farther up the Sanatoga Valley, back of the narrow gorge in the rear of Prospect Hill and Ringing Rock Hill, on the land of Colonel Frederick Antes and on the Reformed Church farm, near Fagleysville, in New Hanover township, and adjoining Pottsgrove township on the north.

Michael Bachman bought of Henry Van Bibber the 103 acres of land in New Hanover township adjoining the land of Frederick Antes. This tract was afterwards the Reformed Church farm of Falkner Swamp. On it stands an old stone house whose history is worthy of record.

1st—When it was used for the church farm, its ministers used to live there and work the farm for their support.

2d—It served as the headquarters for the Generais at Camp Pottsgrove during the encampment of the Continental Army in the Crooked Hills, in 1777. General Wayne used it as the headquarters of the outposts of the Sanatoga Valley.

3d—In this house when it was occupied by his father, Samuel Hartranft, General John F. Hartranft, afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania, was born in 1830.

Camp Pottsgrove was located on the northern slope of the Crooked Hills, in Pottsgrove township, running through New Hanover township, touching on the southern border of Frederick township, and on the north end of Limerick township, and extending into Perkiomen township. In other words, the main camp was located around Fagleysville, on the different farms on the Falkner Swamp hillside. That is the tradition of the neighborhood, and I was always told so by my forefathers who lived there.

Spark's Washington states that Camp Pottsgrove was located near to what we call Pottstown, at that time called Pottsgrove. The outposts were certainly in Pottsgrove township at the entrance to the Sanatoga Valley.

This camp had its outposts, as all camps must have, when an enemy is anywhere near, and it was always said that Sanatoga Valley was held by General Wayne, with his headquarters at the old stone house on the Church farm.

Who was in charge of the outpost at Swamp Tohr (or door) on the Swamp road I am not able to say. This post may have been garrisoned as low down as the lower end of Fruitville.

The other entrance into the Swamp Valley was down the Swamp creek at Camp Perkiomen, which was held by General

McDougall, as shown by General Washington's letter of September 26th.

On September 21st, 1777, early in the morning, Washington with his main army left the Trappe and vicinity and traveled westward, all writers say to Pottsgrove. They did not enter Camp Pottsgrove at Fagleysville by the Crooked Hills road, but they traveled up the Great road to Limerick Square, and then took the road to the right that leads into Falkner Swamp Valley, by the "Old Swamp Tohr," which of itself is a strong natural fort. It was here that the Old Swamp Tohr Eight-Cornered School House stood for years. This place took its name during the encampment. This is the only road that leads into the Swamp Valley from the southeast, as there is only a narrow passage between the Fagley's Heights and Prospect Hill.

One-half mile west of the Swamp Tohr is the village of Fagleysville, and two miles further west the Reformed and Lutheran Swamp Churches, and four miles further west is Boyertown, in Berks county, on the eastern slope of the South Mountain.

At the foot of the Swamp Tohr Hill, on the north side of the road, is what was then John Fagley's farm, now owned by James Faust. On the south side of the road was what is called the Philip Brand farm, a portion of which is now the Tannery farm and Jesse Geist's farm. The army distributed itself on both sides of the road on these farms, and on what is now Noah Fagley's farm No. 2, on which is located a noted strong spring which was used by the Continental Army, so says Frederick Fagley. This farm adjoins on the east the John Fagley farm, and on the north what was the captain Benjamin Markley's farm, which slopes down to the Swamp creek. I find that he served as Captain of the militia.

These three farms are all located in the rear of Swamp Tohr, back of Fagley's heights, and on the northeastern slope overlooking the beautiful Falkner Swamp Valley.

The Andrew Smith farm was also so used. It is located west of Fagleysville and contained 450 acres of land. In 1779 he was assessed as an inn keeper with 450 acres of land, 3

horses and 6 cows. It is now divided into three farms, of which Michael W. Wagner now occupies and owns one part. Martin W. Wagner owns and occupies the part on which the original stone house still stands, that was occupied by Andrew Smith and afterwards by his son Dieter Smith. During the Revolutionary War this house served as a country hotel, in which on the bar-room table surgical operations were performed on the wounded soldiers that were brought here from the Paoli massacre. The bar-room table is still in existence. This was told me by Mrs. Mary Ann Bertolet, who resided here when first married and remained fifteen years. She was told these facts by Dieter Smith and his sister, Mrs. de Pugh. They also told her that they ploughed up the amputated bones in the orchard.

Levengood also owns and occupies a part of the land which lies between the two Wagner farms. This is the farm that was owned and occupied by the late Abraham R. Bertolet, Provost Marshal, who was shot and killed while he and his deputies were making an arrest of William Howe, the deserter, during the late Civil War, who was executed in Fort Delaware for his deed.

It appears that these three farms were occupied by the Artillery Division, as on them most of the cannon balls and shells were found. These farms are west of Fagleysville from the Speck (Specht) Creek Valley to the top of the first elevation.

The militia and the army stores were located southwest of Fagleysville, on the Sanatoga Valley slope, and on the Speck creek (or Fat creek) Valley (Speck creek took its name from the cattle being slaughtered nearby and the offal and refuse being dumped in it), and on Colonel Frederick Antes' farm, which then went by the name of Philip Brand's farm, on which Prospect Hill is located. Colonel Frederick Antes took title from the widow and heirs of Philip Brand, by deed dated on the 21st of May, 1754. This adjoins the John Fagley farm on the northeast, and on the west the Reformed Church farm.

Washington's army was in a wretched condition when they arrived in this camp on the hillside of the Falkner Swamp Val-

ley, almost starved and nearly dead from fatigue, having performed their long marches poorly clad and without shoes during the fall equinox, or rainy season, it having set in with great severity on September 16th, 1777, while they were at the Warren Tavern, and lasted ten days.

I have heard the old people say that when the army arrived in this vicinity, they went out in companies and squads from the hillsides to the valley to find something to eat. They went among the farmers and took possession of the farms and ran things to their own liking, consumed all the farmers' grain and crops, and killed all their cattle.

+ The immediate want of the army is shown by an appeal made to the people and to the farmers' wives for each to bake a full oven of rye bread, as was then in use, and also for coffee, which was of the home-made rye variety, potatoes, beans, ham, or any other kind of meat, and all kinds of vegetables.

The appeal also called for clothing and shoes, of every description. The army teams were ordered to follow up the order, given the previous day, to collect the bread and such articles as could be spared by the people. These were the sayings of the old people.

I find that sub-Lieutenant William Antes, Paymaster, bought bricks and had them hauled to Camp Pottsgrove to build a bake-house and oven on September 22d, 1777, the day after arriving in camp, and paid for the same £ 12.

General Washington's first letter from Camp Pottsgrove, dated September 22d, 1777, may have been written from the town of Pottsgrove while he was the guest of Colonel Thomas Potts, as claimed by the people of Pottstown.

"Camp Pottsgrove, Monday, September 22d, 1777.

"The distressed situation of the army, for want of blankets and many necessary articles of clothing, is truly deplorable, and must inevitably bring distraction to it, unless a speedy remedy is applied.

"To Alexander Hamilton.

Washington."

The following day he writes again,

"At Camp Pottsgrove, Tuesday, September 23d, 1777.

"The enemy by a variety of perplexing manœuvres through a country from which I could not derive the least intelligence (being to a man disaffected) contrived to pass the Schuylkill last night at the Fatland (one and a half-miles below Valley Forge) and other fords in the neighborhood. The enemy marched immediately towards Philadelphia, and I imagine their advance parties will be in the city to-night. Messrs. Carroll, Chase and Penn, who were some days with the army, can inform Congress in how deplorable a situation the troops are for want of that necessary article, shoes. At least 1,000 men are barefooted, and have performed marches in that condition.

"To President of Congress.

Washington."

Charles Carroll, Samuel Chase and John Penn referred to by Washington were signers of the Declaration of Independence, and very likely were Members of Congress.

The British took possession of Philadelphia at 10 a. m., September 26th, 1777. These two letters must have been written near the town of Pottsgrove, as we do not find any other letters written until the 26th of September. Here is a space of three days' time while General Washington was making a personal inspection in Camp Pottsgrove, and making his calls on the different outposts. It was during this period that General Washington with his staff had his headquarters with his friend, Colonel Frederick Antes, in Frederick township.

A number of his fellow-officers were quartered with his neighbor, Samuel Bertolet, the buildings being only 300 yards apart.

It was then that General Washington laid his plans for a forward march on the British in Philadelphia. It was only 5 miles to Camp Perkiomen, at Schwenksville, from Colonel Frederick Antes' residence; 2 miles to the Swamp Tohr; 2 miles to the stone house on the Church farm.

I suppose the reason that this encampment was called Camp Pottsgrove was because it was near to the village of Pottsgrove, the nearest post station in that vicinity. It was about 4 miles from the village of Pottsgrove to Jackson Hill, now "Jacksonville School House," and 6 miles to Fagleys-

ville. The first post office established in Montgomery county was at Pottsgrove in 1793. The name was changed to Pottstown in January, 1829.

Benjamin Franklin was appointed General Postmaster of Philadelphia and county October, 1737, and established the post-riders, and post-stations in all the little towns, and created stations with the merchants and public places of business, such as country stores, mills and hotels.

The object of General Washington's retreat back of these hills was no doubt threefold:

First—To have his army encamped at a place of safety.

Second—To give his army a rest.

Third—To replenish his stores from the Reading store houses, where were considerable arms, clothing, shoes, flour, and other stores.

Reading is only about twenty-four miles distant from the Camp Pottsgrove grounds, and there are two roads connecting them, one by way of Boyertown, Yellow house, Black Bear and the Great road to Reading; and the other by way of Pottstown, and up the great road to Reading. The latter was several miles farther, but at that time it was no doubt the better of the two. The old people used to say as soon as the army had arrived in camp the wagon-trains were at once dispatched to Reading for supplies. It was then that many of the farmers gladly furnished their men and teams to carry supplies to the army, and the convalescent soldiers were taken by these teams to the Reading hospitals from the Reformed Church.

I locate the different Army Corps on the several farms, on which army equipments and articles were found, as seen and told by parties who were then living, and handed down through their different families. This appears from the following statements of their descendants.

The army articles found consisted of leaden bullets, broken bayonets, parts of flint musket locks, and a musket barrel, shells and grape shots, wooden canteens made out of sassafras wood, &c., and a powder horn.

"Statement of Michael W. Wagner, of Fagleysville."

"It is evident that a camp has been here, as there have been numerous grape shots and shells unearthed. Jesse Geist, Esq., of Fagleysville, remembers that he saw a basketful of leaden musket balls, grape shots, &c., that had been unearthed on his farm.

"The detachment here in New Hanover had its headquarters on my farm, and both churches here at Swamp were used as hospitals. Revolutionary soldiers who died while the churches were used as hospitals are buried at both churches, but as they have no headstones we are unable to mention them. Tradition has it that some are also buried on the farm of Martin W. Wagner."

There are now living four grandsons of John Fagley, the Revolutionary soldier, namely, Frederick Fagley, in his 81st year; Elias Fagley, in his 78th year; John S. Fagley, in his 76th year, and Noah Fagley, in his 73d year. Their father's name was also John (the tanner), who lived on his father's farm, but built the tannery, and buildings on the south side of the Swamp road, at a spring, which is the source of the Sanatoga creek. Noah Fagley now resides on his father's farm.

"Statement of Frederick Fagley, 1619 N. 19th street, Philadelphia, Pa.

"I was born in October, 1819, and raised on my grandfather's farm, and was the owner of it for twenty-five years, and erected the new brick house and barn on it.

"I well remember my grandfather. I was 14 years old when he died at the age of 84. He used to point out where and whose farms the Continental Army occupied, namely, the Philip Brand farm, the Reformed Church farm, and his own farm; also the farm northeast of his, now Noah Fagley's No. 2 farm, on which the noted strong spring is located, which supplied the army with its good water, and the Benjamin Markley farm, which is located within a half-mile of the Antes Mill.

"While a young man I used to gather the leaden musket balls, and grape and canister balls and broken shells, and at one time I had as many as a straw bread-basket full. I saved some of them for a long time, but gradually they dwindled down to one, which I always esteemed and valued very highly. As you are writing this historical sketch I therefore hand it to you with the request that you present it to the Historical

Society of Montgomery County, Pa., to be placed with other relics that the Society has.

"Grandfather used to say that Washington taught his army to read, and to commit and to pray the 91st Psalm.

"He used to point out a large, sprawly oak tree on the southwestern slope towards the Speck creek, where the army killed their cattle and hung them on the low spreading limbs. He used to say that the meat was hauled from here to the different commands and outposts, and this place was also used for killing cattle after the army left.

"My grandfather, John Fagley, served in the first class of the militia company from New Hanover township under Captain Hahn in the Revolutionary War.

"I well remember him when he was about 80 years old and up to the time of his death. He used to mount his saddle horse and ride from his home at Fagleysville to New Hanover Square with his old army overcoat on to cast his vote on election day. This overcoat was similar to the present army coat, except it was made with three capes instead of the one they use at the present time.

"Statement of Elias Fagley, N. E. cor. 28th and Diamond streets, Philadelphia, Pa., late Justice of the Peace at Fagleysville, New Hanover township, Montgomery county, Pa.

"I was born and raised on my grandfather John Fagley's farm, at Fagleysville. I also worked the farm for my uncle, Abraham Fagley, while he was the owner.

"I well remember my grandfather, John Fagley. I was about 11 years old when he died at the age of 84 years.

"All the history I am able to furnish about the camp in the Revolutionary War is what I heard my grandfather John Fagley say. He served in the company from New Hanover township, in the first class, under Captain Hahn.

"His residence was in New Hanover township, Montgomery county (now Fagleysville).

"I remember him saying he had been engaged at the Battle of the Brandywine and at Paoli, and that Washington's army, or part thereof, had encamped near what is now Fagleysville, on Philip Brand's farm, on the Reformed Church parsonage farm, and on his own farm.

"Washington used to go on Philip Brand's Hill, now Prospect Hill, where he had a full view of the Sanatoga Valley to Pottsgrove, and on Fagley's Hill, or Heights, where he had a full view of the Schuylkill Valley to Valley Forge.

"I remember the big oak tree where he said they had their slaughtering place.

"For years an old wooden canteen, made of sassafras wood, laid in our wood house. It was so constructed that the height was about three times the length. I have often wished that I had preserved it. We also had in our family grandfather's powder horn that he used during the campaign."

Thus we see that the commissary camp was established on the original Philip Brand farm, near the sprawly oak tree spoken of by these two grandsons of John Fagley.

As recorded in the Pennsylvania Archives, sub-Lieutenant William Antes states in his report that he paid £12 for bricks, and for having them hauled to Camp Pottsgrove to build a bake-house, or oven, for the army. This bake-oven must have been erected near the sprawly oak tree, and the one-story stone and log house on what is known as the Christian Goldsmith farm, which was the original Philip Brand house, southwest of Fagleysville, where the road winds around the Philip Brand Hill (now Prospect Hill). This house and farm were held in trust by 'Squire Antes for the children of Philip Brand, and were afterwards conveyed by him to the son of Philip Brand.

When the teams went out from here with commissary supplies to the different commands and outposts, they not only took meat, but all necessary supplies, indicating this as the place where the stores were taken by the wagon-trains as they came into camp from Reading.

According to the statement of grandfather Fagley the place was used for killing cattle after the army left. Evidently they must have continued killing the cattle and baking the bread here for the army while they were encamped at Camp Perkiomen, and hauled it there on the army wagons, and probably even after the defeat at Germantown, when they retreated to the old camp by the Perkiomen creek.

"Statement of Noah Fagley, of Fagleysville, Pa.

"I was born on my grandfather's farm, and I now own the Tannery farm and the farm on the Swamp Creek Hill road. I have spent my lifetime on these three farms, and I have found

a number of war relics on them, such as leaden bullets, grape shots and pieces of broken shell. The old people used to say that the stone house on the Church farm was occupied by the Generals of Washington's army as their headquarters.

"General Wayne's name used to be mentioned as one of the Generals stopping there."

"Statement of John S. Fagley, Chalkley Hall Lane, Philadelphia.

"I was born April 1st, 1825, on my grandfather's farm, at Fagleysville, Pa., and was about 8 years old when my grandfather died. I remember the sprawly oak tree where the army had their slaughtering place.

"I remember the Revolutionary relics my brother Frederick found on the farm, such as leaden bullets and broken bayonets and iron canister balls. They laid up in the garret for a long time. I helped to melt some of the leaden bullets to get the lead which we wanted for other purposes. I well remember the old army overcoat my grandfather used to wear. My uncle, Abraham Fagley, used to wear it to Philadelphia when he came to market. I also remember the old wooden canteen that used to lay in the garret among the rubbish."

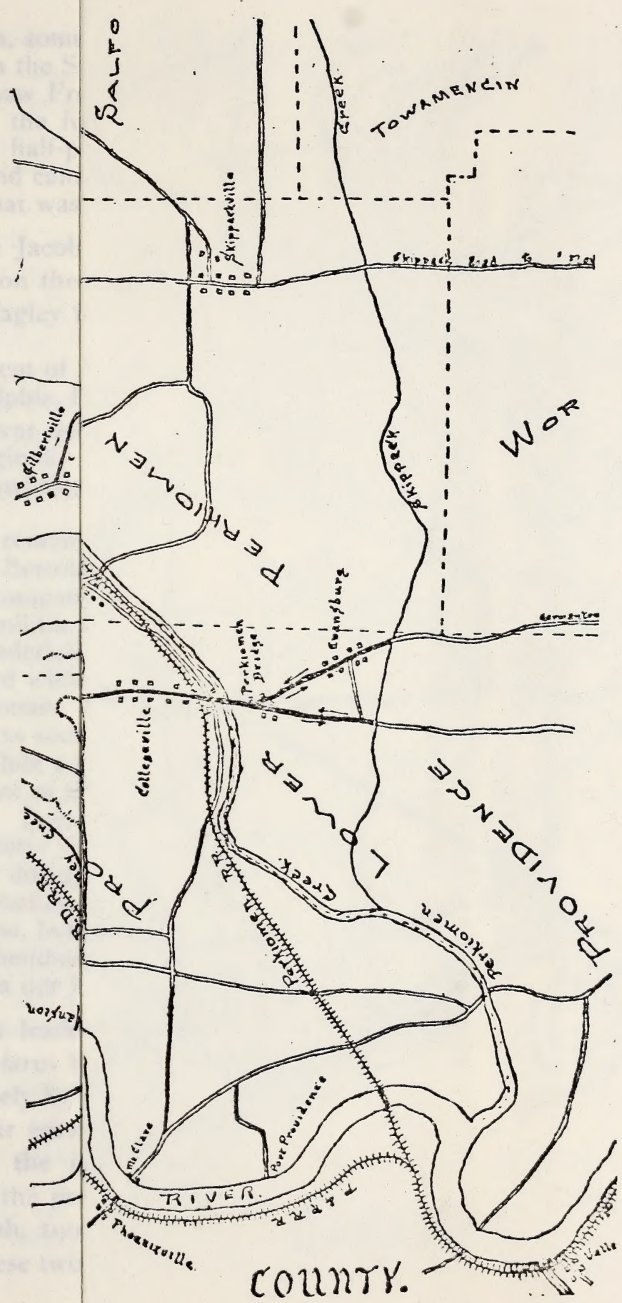
John S. Fagley related to me this story that used to go the rounds in Fagleysville when he was a boy. When the artillery of Washington's army came along the road by the old Philip Brand farm, one of the Brand sons was ploughing in the field, and when he caught sight of the army he left his plough and team of horses standing in the field and joined the army.

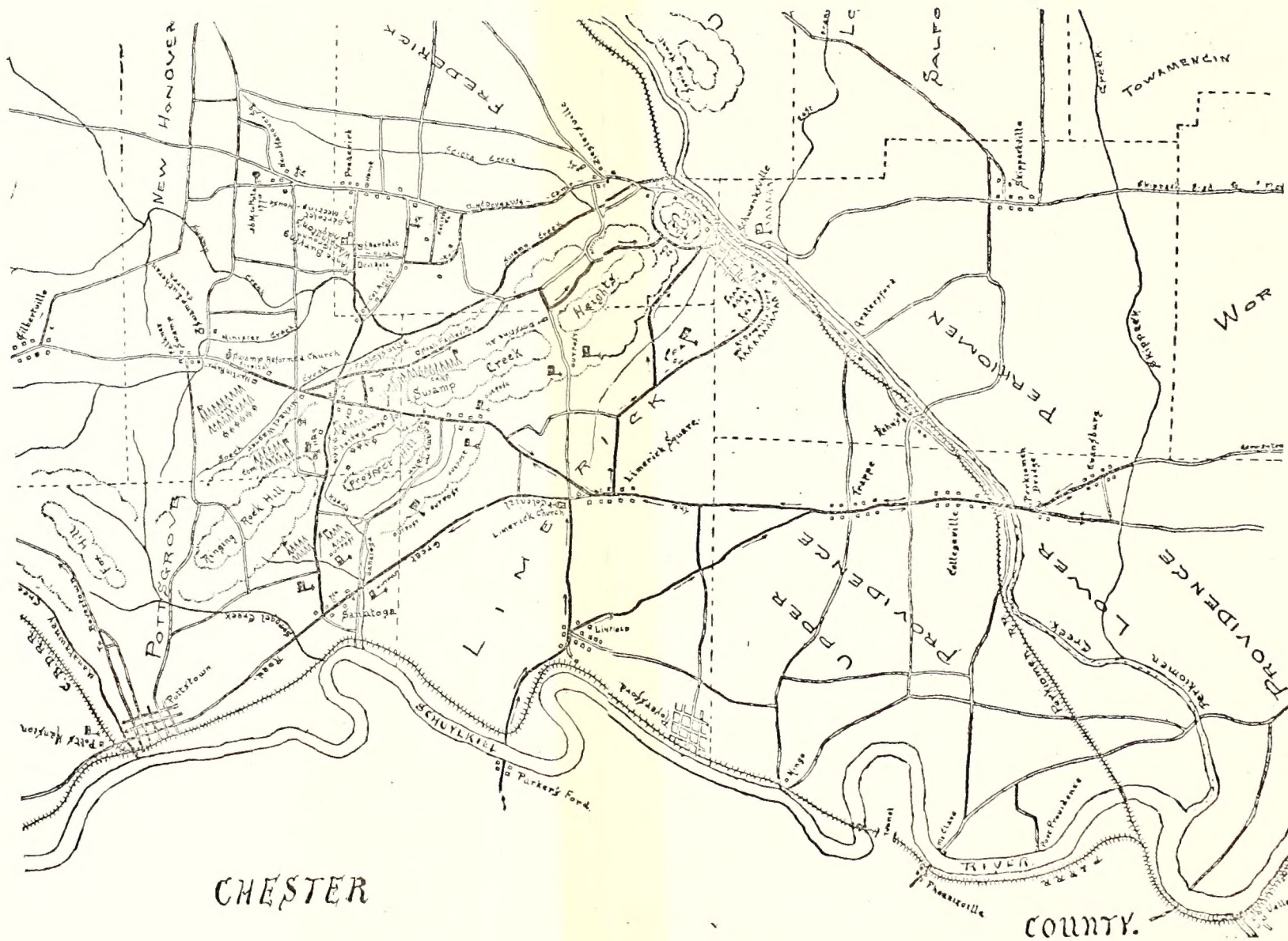
On October 23d, 1900, I made a personal visit to Captain Jesse Geist, of Fagleysville, Pa. He served as Captain during the Civil War. He said:

"My farm is a part of the John Fagley Tannery farm, originally a part of the Philip Brand farm.

"I found quite a number of Revolutionary relics on my farm, but gave some of them to my friends. At present I have still three leaden musket balls and five grape and canister balls, about seven-eighths of an inch in diameter, which I found in my fields a little south of my farm buildings.

"My son has a solid cannon shot (cannon ball) which measures two and a half-inches in diameter. He purchased it at the public sale of Jacob Keely's effects, who died about one





year ago, some 80 years old. Jacob Keely's sons say it was found on the Swamp Creek Hill road some years ago.

"I saw Frederick Fagley's collection while a young man. He had the full of a straw bread-basket which would hold about a half-peck; it consisted of leaden musket balls, and grape and canister shots. I remember seeing the old musket barrel that was found on the John Fagley farm."

The Jacob Keely farm spoken of by Captain Jesse Geist fronted on the Swamp Creek Hill road, about one mile east of the Fagley farms.

"Statement of Abraham B. Bertolet, 2428 N. 28th street, Philadelphia, Pa.

"I was born on my father Daniel Bertolet's farm, which was originally a part of the Samuel Bertolet farm, in Frederick township, Montgomery county, Pa., September 1st, 1833.

"I remember my father speaking of my grandfather, Samuel Bertolet, saying he enrolled in Captain Michael Dotterer's company from Frederick township in the Philadelphia county militia, which was part of the 6th Battalion under Colonel Frederick Antes. Instead of serving with his company, he served with his own team to do the necessary hauling for the regiment. He heard his father say that the regiment proceeded, as soon as formed, to Newtown, Bucks county, Pa.

"While a boy I served under Elias Fagley, who was then the tenant of the John Fagley farm under his uncle, Abraham Fagley. I served for three years, during 1842, 1843 and 1844. The infantry of Washington's army must have been encamped here, as during my service I found quite a number of leaden musket bullets. I saved a number of them in my trunk for a long time, but in moving around they were gradually lost. I well remember grandfather Samuel Bertolet's army overcoat. It was in our family until after the Civil War."

The leaden musket balls or bullets found on the John Fagley farm by Frederick Fagley and on the Philip Brand farm lately by Jesse Geist are proof that a part of the infantry had their encampment there.

On the farm opposite the Fagleysville Hotel William Moore, the present owner, found two leaden musket balls on May 20th, 1900, while preparing the land for corn.

These two leaden musket balls have been procured by the

writer and are presented to the Historical Society in connection with this paper.

The leaden musket balls found on these farms must have been a part of the ammunition furnished that General Washington writes about in his letter of September 14th, 1777, at the Falls of Schuylkill, as there was no clash between the two armies of any consequence until they met at the Battle of Brandywine.

After the army left Camp Pottsgrove, at Fagleysville, there was a famine in the district that fall and winter, and the farmers were obliged to call on their friends from other districts to help them through the winter.

My father and brothers used to say that grandmother Bertolet said that they were obliged to call on their friends at Oley, Berks county, for assistance during the following winter.

I find it was known in Camp Pottsgrove on September 25th that a forward movement was to be made towards Camp Perkiomen, and the army was shaping itself towards that move. By looking over the different roads and distances I find by way of Limerick Square it is about seven miles from Fagleysville to Schwenksville, and through the Swamp Creek Hills it is about four miles.

The artillery and the wagon-train traveled by the Swamp Tohr road to Limerick, and those on the outpost near the town of Pottsgrove by way of the Colonial Great road to Limerick, and from there across to Camp Perkiomen.

The following letters speak for themselves:

"Camp Pottsgrove, Thursday, September 25th, 1777.

"To-day it rains. To-morrow morning at nine o'clock we march and join General McDougall. Pretty soon I imagine we shall proceed to attack the enemy if their post is practicable.

"To John Pickering.

Colonel Pickering."

"Camp Pottsgrove, Friday, September 26th, 1777.

"We shall move towards Philadelphia to-day, as the weather is clear and our reinforcements are at some distance below, ready to fall in with us.

"To Henry Laurens.

John Laurens."

By the tone of this letter the army officers were already advised of the forward march towards Philadelphia.

"Camp Pottsgrove, Friday, September 26th, 1777.

"We are now in motion and advancing to form a junction with General McDougall. I expect to be joined in a day or two by General Foreman with fourteen or fifteen hundred Jersey militia.

"To Elbridge Gerry.

Washington."

One can see by this letter, written at Camp Pottsgrove, that Washington was well posted as to General McDougall's position at Camp Perkiomen near Pennybecker's Mill, now Schwenksville, Perkiomen township. Washington writes again on the same day after arriving at Camp Perkiomen, from Pennybecker's Mill. This mill no doubt was the post station and place of business in the neighborhood.

"At Pennybecker's Mill, Friday, September 26th, 1777.

"You are hereby authorized to impress all blankets, shoes and stockings, and other articles of clothing that can be spared by the inhabitants of Lancaster and other counties, for the use of the army, paying for the same at reasonable rates or giving certificates.

"To William Henry, Lancaster.

Washington."

The writer of this article believes he cannot give too much credit to Colonel Frederick Antes, and believes it was through him and his fellow-countrymen from Falkner Swamp Valley that this camp was located back of the upper hills of the county.

The Colonel always had the reputation of being a bright, shrewd, honest business man in his community. After the death of his father, Henry Antes, a Justice of the Peace, in 1756, the Colonel was appointed a Justice in his place by the Crown government.

No doubt it was he that guided the army on his own land, as he was very popular among all the army officers, from General Washington down. There was good reason for it, as he was one of the Delegates to the two Provincial Conventions held at Philadelphia January 23d and 28th, 1775, and at Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, on June 18th, 1776. These conventions were also attended from this section by Colonel John Bull and Captain Matthew Brooke. This gave him a promi-

ment position, and the whole army looked up to him. At the last Provincial Convention they urged Congress to pass an act to enlist 6,000 militia as a flying camp in Pennsylvania.

It was he who secured a place for the wounded in the Reformed Church at Falkner Swamp. The Antes family were members of that church, not only members but the standby for its support.

At this church are a number of graves of Revolutionary soldiers. These graves were shown me while I was a young man by an old man by the name of Gilbert while I was helping to dig a grave for a young child of Peter Leidy.

It was Colonel Frederick Antes who had a place for General Washington and his fellow-officers at his own plantation, and with his neighbor Samuel Bertolet, who owned the adjoining farm. Their buildings were only about 300 yards apart.

The Antes farm buildings are standing in good preservation. The house is a two-story stone building in the Colonial style. It originally had a gable roof and cornice on four sides, which were removed after I left the neighborhood. The house was built probably as early as 1740.

In the garret of this house are some traces of the Revolutionary camp. A number of letters cut on the rafters are the initials of the men's names that were quartered here.

There used to be at the Antes residence a large cut sandstone called a riding stone, for the use of riders in mounting their horses. It was in the shape of a flight of steps. This same stone was used by General Washington.

Colonel Frederick Antes received his commission as Colonel May 6th, 1777, and he served his country during the campaign from Trenton to the Brandywine, Paoli and the Battle of Germantown, until the army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

The Colonel served with his regiment in the 6th Battalion. His regiment consisted of eight companies, which were drawn from the following townships of Philadelphia (now Montgomery): Douglass, Frederick, Limerick, Marlborough, New Hanover, Upper Hanover, Perkiomen and Salford.

Frederick Weiss served as Lieutenant Colonel.

Jacob Bishop served as Major.

William Antes, Esq., served as sub-Lieutenant, or paymaster for the district. His account shows, paid to Captain Michael Dotterer the amount of his company's pay-roll, £321 10s.

The Captains in command of the eight companies of the battalion were: 1st, John Brooke; 2d, Benjamin Brooke; 3d, Peter Lower; 4th, Philip Hahn; 5th, Peter Richards; 6th, Michael Dotterer; 7th, Andrew Reed; 8th, ——— Childs.

Captain Michael Dotterer received his commission May 12th, 1777, and served in this capacity as Captain of the Frederick township militia under Colonel Frederick Antes.

The following are the names of the men that served in his company from Frederick:

Peter Acker, Francis Bart, Jacob Belts, Samuel Bertolet, Conrad Bickhart, Henry Boyer, Jacob Boyer, Philip Boyer, Valentine Boyer, William Boyer, Jacob Christman, Jacob Detweiler, Conrad Diffenbacher, John Dotterer, John Geist, Matthias Geist, John Hildebeitel, Henry Hollobush, Yost Hollobush, Daniel Krause, Henry Krause, Michael Krause, Michael Kuntz, Francis Leidig, Leonard Leidig, John Lay, George Michael, Zacharias Nyce, Gottfried Saylor, Henry Sassaman, Charles Solner, Jacob Stetler, Henry S. Stetler, Christian Stetler, George Smith, George Swanck, Jacob Swanck, Jacob Reimer, John Reimer, Ludwick Reimer, Jacob Undercuffler, Henry Warner, Jeremiah Weiser, Jacob Zieber and John Zieber.

The following are the names of the men that served under Captain Philip Hahn in the militia company from New Hanover township: John Bitting, Peter Bitting, Yost Bitting, Philip Brandt, George Buchert, Peter Dehaven, Jacob Denny, John Detier, Michael Egolf, George Emhart, Ensign, John Fagley, Lewis Frankenberger, John Freed, Jacob Freese, Bernard Freyer, John Freyer, Adam Gerver, John Grove, Michael Hilber, Jacob Hill, Corporal, Michael Hoover, Jacob Kern, Corporal, Sebastian Koch, Adam Krebs, Philip Krebs, Michael Krebs, David Lessig, Peter Loch, Benjamin Markley, Joseph Maybury, Frederick Miller, Martin Miller, Benedict

Mintz, Alexander M'Micheal, Adam Neidig, Jacob Neighman, George Palsgrove, Henry Palsgrove, Daniel Pile, Sebastian Reifsnider, Daniel Rhoads, John Richards, John Sackman, Christian Sackriter, George Sheffy, Corporal, Jacob Sheffy, John Sheffy, John Shuler, Christian Slonaker, George Adam Slonaker, Henry Slonaker, John Smith, Henry Snider, Jr., Jacob Snider, John Snider, Ludwick Starck, Jacob Strouse, Adam Warthman, John Walter, John Willower, Philip Yawn, Adam Yerger, Andrew Yerger, Martin Yerger, Philip Young and Christian Zoller.

Every male citizen old enough to shoulder a musket was compelled by act of Congress to take the Oath of Allegiance and be sworn into the militia service; not only those that went out in the army, but those that remained at home, were required to take the oath in order to show whether they espoused the American cause or not. Anyone who refused to take this oath was put under surveillance by the Committee of Safety.

The Continental Congress passed a law on June 13th, 1777, requiring this oath, which was substantially as follows:

"I, John Doe, do swear (or affirm) that I do renounce and refuse all allegiance to George III, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors," &c.

This "Oath of Allegiance" had to be taken by July 1st, 1777, for after the Battle of Princeton whole companies deserted the army.

Among other citizens of the upper end of (now) Montgomery county who took active part with the Continental Army at that time I will mention Colonel Thomas Potts, of Pottsgrove; General Daniel Hiester, of Sunnyside; Michael Hillengass, of Upper Hanover; Captain Benjamin Markley, of New Hanover, and Colonel Jacob Reed, of Salford.

While Colonel Frederick Antes was making up his regiment he was convinced that it was necessary to have a team to accompany the regiment to haul the stores and supplies, and he prevailed upon his neighbor Samuel Bertolet to enlist with his own team, instead of serving as a private soldier, to accompany the regiment.

Miner, Alexander M. Mitchell, Adam Neidig, Jacob Neighman,
George Palsgrove, Henry Palsgrove, Daniel Pelt, Sebastian
Reinhardt, Daniel Rhoads, John Richards, John Sackman,
Christian Sackner, George Shelby, Corporal, Jacob Shiff,
John Shiff, John Shuler, Christian Stonaker, George Adam
Stonaker, Henry Stonaker, John Smith, Henry Snider,
Jacob Snider, John Snider, Ludwig Stark, Jacob Strous,
Adam Warrman, John Walter, John Willower, Philip Yaver,
Adam Yeiger, Andrew Yeiger, Martin Yeiger, Philip Young
and Christian Zoller.

Every male citizen old enough to shoulder a musket was
compelled by act of Congress to take the Oath of Allegiance
and be sworn into the militia service; not only those that went
in the army, but those that remained at home, were required
to take the oath in order to show whether they espoused the
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refuse all allegiance to George III, King of Great Britain, his
heirs and successors," &c.

This "Oath of Allegiance" had to be taken by July 1st,
1777, for after the Battle of Brimston whole companies de-
serted the army.

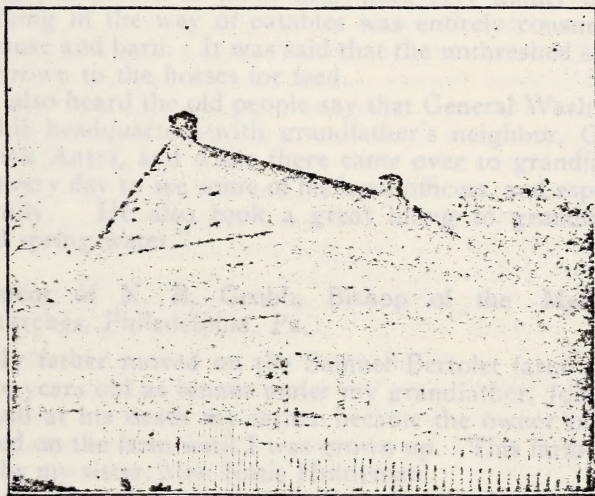
Among other citizens of the upper end of (now) Montgomery
county who took active part with the Continental Army
at that time I will mention Colonel Thomas Foss, of Pot-
grove; General Daniel Hiestor, of Summerstown; Michael
Hillengass, of Upper Hanover; Captain Benjamin Markley,
of New Hanover, and Colonel Jacob Reed, of Salford.

While Colonel Frederick Ams was making up his reg-
iment he was convinced that it was necessary to have a team to
accompany the regiment to haul the stores and supplies, and he
prevailed upon his neighbor Samuel Beriolet to enlist with
his own team, instead of serving as a private soldier, to accom-
pany the regiment.

In those days the Colonels had full control and supervision of militia regiments.

The Colonies were unable to supply the wants of the militia, therefore the appointment fell upon Samuel Bertolet. His team consisted of four horses and a Conestoga wagon, with its feed trough swinging on the back of the wagon. The feed trough was so constructed that when in use it fitted on the wagon tongue. I well remember the trough as my father became owner of it. It was always said that two of the horses of Samuel Bertolet's army team belonged to Colonel Antes.

+ Colonel Frederick Antes' regiment, after it was fully organized, proceeded to Newtown, Bucks county, near Trenton, on the western banks of the Delaware river.



HOUSE OF SAMUEL BERTOLET

Staff Headquarters, Camp Pottsgrove, September 18 to 26, 1777

"Statement of Ezra Bertolet, 214 East Thompson street, Philadelphia, Penna.:

"I am the son of Daniel Bertolet and grandson of Samuel Bertolet, the Revolutionary soldier. I was born September 18th, 1827, on the portion of Samuel Bertolet's farm, which was cultivated by my father, Daniel Bertolet. It was on this part of the farm that the Bertolet family located their burial ground.

"When I was a young man I heard my father, my uncles and the neighbors speak about the part of the Revolutionary Army that encamped on Fagleysville Heights. While there they were sent out on foraging expeditions among the farmers of the surrounding country, as they were very poor, and had to obtain both food and clothing.

"I also heard my father and my uncle, Abraham, the oldest of the family, then about three years old, say that when the officers and soldiers came to their house and asked to have entire control of the house and barn for the use of the officers and men and their horses, the head officers ordered that the family should occupy one room in the house for themselves, and should not be molested, which order they strictly obeyed.

"On the arrival of the officers to ask permission for the use of the house the family were very much frightened, but by granting permission to them they were very kindly treated. Everything in the way of eatables was entirely consumed in both house and barn. It was said that the unthreshed sheaves were thrown to the horses for feed.

"I also heard the old people say that General Washington made his headquarters with grandfather's neighbor, Colonel Frederick Antes, and while there came over to grandfather's house every day to see some of his head officers, and especially the family. He also took a great liking to grandfather's mineral spring water."

"Statement of N. B. Grubb, Bishop of the Mennonite Churches, Philadelphia, Pa.:

"My father moved on the Samuel Bertolet farm when I was five years old as tenant under my grandfather, John Bertolet, and at his death my father became the owner of it. I remained on the farm until I was grown up. This farm is still owned by my sister, Mrs. Katie Hultieman.

"I frequently heard my grandfather, John Bertolet, relate that his father, Samuel Bertolet, served in the Revolutionary War, with his team, from Frederick township, Montgomery County, Pa., in Colonel Frederick Antes' regiment.

"It was said the regiment went to Newtown, Bucks county, and from there to the Brandywine and through Chester county, and his team was one of the teams that were with General Wayne when he was surprised at Paoli.

"He also related that he had hauled the wounded soldiers from Chester county to the Swamp Church hospital. He also took part in the Battle of Germantown, from which battle he

hauled some wounded soldiers to the Swamp Church hospital, and some shells and solid shots, which he dumped in the creek near his springhouse.

"He also used to relate that General Washington and his bodyguard had their headquarters with Colonel Frederick Antes, and General Washington used to come every morning to our spring for his drink of mineral spring water. Some of the Generals and officers were quartered in our house."

"The Perkiomen Region," by Henry S. Dotterer, Vol. II, No. 6, pp. 96 and 97, mentions Samuel Bertolet as follows:

"Upon the death of Jacob Frey the farm owned by him, in Frederick township, passed into the possession of Samuel Bertolet, his son-in-law, and the stone house partially built by the deceased was completed and occupied by the new owner.

"Samuel Bertolet, during the latter years of the Revolutionary War, purchased the large farm and the mill on the Swamp creek of Colonel Frederick Antes. He was prosperous in business, influential in his neighborhood, and accumulated considerable wealth. In his religious views he leaned toward the Mennonites, and lead an earnest, exemplary Christian life. He was a student of books, a promoter of religion, and an intelligent, reflecting observer of events in his time.

"He was in the prime of life during the period of the Revolutionary War, and his name is enrolled as a member of the 7th Class in the Frederick Township Militia Company, in 1777-1778. George Washington, it is said, was sojourning with his staff for a few days at the house of Colonel Frederick Antes, of Frederick township, and every morning the Father of His Country walked over to neighbor Samuel Bertolet's house to drink the water of a noted mineral spring.

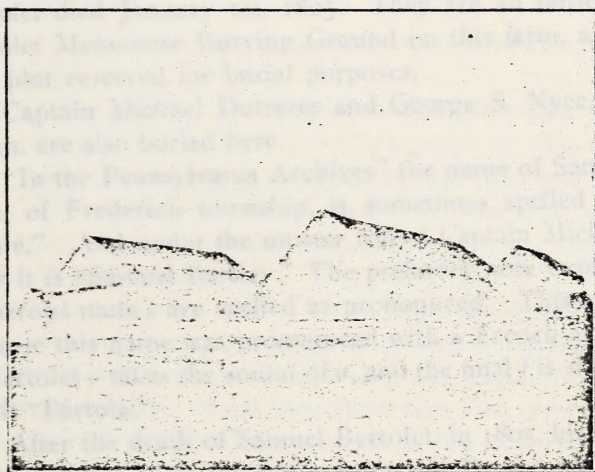
"Samuel Bertolet and the other large farmers, if not serving in the army, were required, when occasion demanded, to furnish teams for the transportation of stores and wounded during the critical times of the battles of Brandywine, Paoli and Germantown, and the encampment at Valley Forge. Samuel Bertolet, so the story goes, hauled a load of wounded soldiers all the way from the field at Brandywine to the hospital at Bethlehem."

There were a number of trips made to Valley Forge during the winter 1777 and 1778 by the teams of Colonel Frederick Antes and Samuel Bertolet with such supplies as could be gathered in the community. In reference to hauling the wounded soldiers to Bethlehem, they were hauled from the

Swamp churches and other churches and schoolhouses to Bethlehem and Reading hospitals.

It used to be said that Colonel Frederick Antes had much trouble with the Crown government during the latter part of the war. He was harassed by self-appointed detectives seeking to have him arrested and brought before the Crown government for breaking the vows of his office as Justice of the Peace, and the Crown government offered a reward of £ 100 sterling for his head.

In consequence thereof he sold his large farm and mill on the Swamp creek, as stated in "The Perkiomen Region," to Samuel Bertolet, who paid him principally in Continental money, which he had received for his services and for provisions and stores furnished.



BARN ON THE SAMUEL BERTOLET FARM

My father, Daniel Bertolet, who was born April 20th, 1796, used to relate what his mother said. She was born on June 6th, 1762, and died August 8th, 1823. She said:

"When General Washington's army was encamped on the hills, the army officers and men came to our farm and took possession of our place. The barn was filled with horses during the rainy weather. The house was also full of soldiers,

and the family was obliged to occupy but one room." The house is large. It was built in 1771, and in the Colonial style.

The barn is also in a good state of preservation. It was built as early as 1765 by William Frey, and is the only barn of that period in the neighborhood (except the Philip Leidig barn) that is still standing at this day. The Samuel Bertolet barn was principally used by Washington's bodyguard, and the officers' horses. Father used to say that his mother said the threshing-floor of the barn was packed full. These officers had been very friendly with teamster Bertolet through those long marches, and everybody knows that supplies and provisions are always in demand on such occasions.

William Frey bought of James Steel 200 acres of land May 22d, 1729, and conveyed the same to his son, Jacob Frey, April 5th, 1768. They both died the same year, 1770. Samuel Bertolet died January 1st, 1805. They are all buried in the Bertolet Mennonite Burying Ground on this farm, a one-half acre plot reserved for burial purposes.

Captain Michael Dotterer and George S. Nyce, the historian, are also buried here.

"In the Pennsylvania Archives" the name of Samuel Bertolet, of Frederick township, is sometimes spelled "Samuel Bastle." And under the muster roll of Captain Michael Dotterer it is "Samuel Bartley." The prefatory note explains that numerous names are spelled as pronounced. This spelling is because this name was pronounced with a French accent, and in Bertolet *e* takes the sound of *a*, and the final *t* is silent, making it "Bartola."

After the death of Samuel Bertolet, in 1805, his farm was divided between his two sons, John and Daniel, and the mill went to his oldest son, Abraham. The writer of this sketch was born on the Daniel Bertolet farm July 6th, 1836.

I remember only two persons who lived during the Revolutionary War in our neighborhood and died within my recollection. One was Christian Stetler, a member of Captain Michael Dotterer's Company, of Frederick township. He is buried at the Stetler and Leidig Burying Ground.

Mrs. Philip Leidig was the other person. She lived sev-

eral years longer than Mr. Stetler, and was buried at the same burial place.

I remember her very distinctly. She called on my mother often, and rested there while on her way to Stetler's store, as she was very old. She always had with her her grandson, Josiah Leidig, who at present lives at Hatboro, Montgomery county, Pa.

On one of these stops, I was then about seven or eight years old, she and my mother talked on the subject of the Revolutionary War, and she said:

"I remember the Revolutionary War well. When the army encamped on the hills a whole company came to our house and took possession of our place during the rainy weather. The barn and every outbuilding was full of horses, and the house also was full of soldiers, lying on and covering the floors in each room, while the family was compelled to occupy but one room."

Jesse Geist, Esq., says his grandmother used to relate the same story.

Camp Perkiomen was located at Schwenksville, on the hill overlooking the ford of the Perkiomen at the wooden bridge, with the Pannebecker Mill at the east end of the bridge. The camp was located southwest from this point on the different farms, on which the army materials and relics were found and preserved.

The Schwenksville "Item" says a copy of the map of that encampment, which was prepared by the engineers September 27th, 1777, is still in existence, showing the neighboring roads leading to the camp. I am convinced that that camp was on the west side of the Perkiomen creek, as General McDougall would not guard on the east side and be driven into the creek, if the enemy had approached him from the eastward, as all streams were high at that time. No doubt after the enemy was reported in Philadelphia, September 26th, a part of the army moved to the east side.

The farms that are reported as having been occupied there by the Continental Army are Henry Keely's, Shillick's, Pawling's, Markley's, Puhl's, Reimer's, Truckermiller's, Horning's and Grimley's.

That camp also extended on the hills north of Schwenksville, on the Skippack and Swamp road, above the Detwiler Mill, now Longacre's Mill, which road passed over the hill where the old Mennonite Meeting House stood, now the Cemetery, and came out on the turnpike above the Weldon House. It is a continuation of the Skippack road.

This road also intersects with the forest road, which winds zigzag through the Swamp Creek Hills to Fagleysville. This forest road was used principally as a foot and bridle path, as it was at that time only a forest trail of about four miles to the Fagley farm, the back end of which fronted on this road.

This is proved by William Neiffer, of Neiffer's Post Office, where is located the old Herstine Mennonite Meeting and school house with a burying ground connected. He says there are some Revolutionary soldiers buried here. This place is about half-way between Schwenksville and Fagleysville.

Wm. J. Buck says that some of the militia came down past Detweiler's Mill, now the Samuel Longacre Mill, which is no doubt correct, they having come down that forest trail.

At Keely's Church Cemetery, now Schwenksville Cemetery, there are a large number of graves marked with ordinary common rock headstones, which are said to be graves of Revolutionary soldiers buried there.

I was told while on a trip to Fagleysville and Frederick, October 23d, 1900, that two leaden musket bullets were recently found on the land of D. W. Bean, at Schwenksville, on the hill overlooking the wooden bridge crossing the Perkio-men creek, back of the public school house, while preparing the land for corn. I have described that location as General McDougall's camp.

The facts I here relate are not new to the old inhabitants of the upper end of Montgomery county, but as they are one hundred and twenty-three years old they are probably new to the younger generations.

Some may doubt that Washington's army encamped behind the Crooked Hills, at Fagleysville. The best proof we have are the iron grape and canister shots, shells, leaden musket balls and other army relics found there on the farms,

on which the Continental Army encamped, and the neighborhood tradition relating thereto. These statements of aged and respected citizens are produced to substantiate my account and should be sufficient proof that the encampment was located there.

The only person, to my knowledge, who has ever touched upon this encampment in his historical researches is our esteemed friend and historian, Henry S. Dotterer.

Thus I have supplied the lost link in the story of General Washington's retreat back of the upper hills of Montgomery county, in order to connect those portions of history already written for and read to this Society. Henry A. Hunsicker in his paper, "The picture of the Perkiomen Valley with the surrounding hills as the border thereof," read at the meeting of this Society at Collegeville, Pa., September 14th, 1898, remarked that "General Washington came down and passed up the Great road, and went west, but he could not say how far, perhaps as far west as Limerick Square."

I was, perhaps, the only one in his audience that knew that Washington's army had been as far west as Fagleysville. I, therefore, start where he left off, and fill in the gap between him and Henry W. Kratz, who wrote of Washington at Pennebecker's Mill. This forges the lost link in the chain of stirring events that happened in Pennsylvania during the fall of 1777.

[Read before the Historical Society, at Norristown, February 22, 1901.]

NOTE.—Since preparing the foregoing paper I have found the following additional mention of the camp:

The journal of Captain William Beatty, of the Maryland Line, 1776 to 1780, states: "We waded the Schuylkill on the 18th of September, 1777. Our army leaving the passes clear at the same time marched up the country to a place called New Hanover, where we lay some days. During our stay at this place a detachment was sent to Mud Island, below Philadelphia. From this place we marched to Perkiomen Mills."

General Weedon's Orderly Book on September 30, 1777, mentions the camp as follows: "General Green lost at New

Hanover Camp a brass pistol; both stock and barrel marked H. K. Any person who has found it and will return it to the General shall receive twenty dollars."

It appears, therefore, that the vanguard of the army encamped there, near Fagleysville, on September 18, 1777, one day earlier than I stated in my paper.

On September 20 Wayne's command arrived there, immediately after his defeat at Paoli.

Washington and the main army, having crossed the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford on September 19 and encamped extending from the Trappe to Evansburg, moved again on September 21 westerly up to his camp at Fagleysville.

On September 26 the entire force moved to Camp Perkiomen. B. B.

HISTORY OF FREELAND SEMINARY.

By Prof. J. S. Weinberger, Dean of Ursinus College.

The year 1848, fifty years ago, is comprised in a period of history abounding in orators, statesmen and educators of national fame. Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Thomas H. Benton and John M. Clayton were the most distinguished orators and statesmen in the National Congress, and Horace Mann was an educator unequalled in his untiring efforts in the cause of educational extension and reform, in the suppression of slavery, and in the promotion of temperance.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was fraught with great educational achievements during this period. The main building of Girard College, the finest in the Corinthian style in the United States, was completed in 1848, and the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia was established in the same year. The State was well supplied with academies at this time, and Montgomery county had already three. The common school system had now been in operation several years, and it was gradually commending itself to the people. Important changes in the law took place from time to time. In 1848, the people having previously, in the triennial election, in every part of the State, voted for the continuance of the system, an act was passed extending it over the entire State.

To meet the increasing demand for educational facilities in the eastern section of Pennsylvania, Freeland Seminary was established in 1848 on a tract of land of ten acres purchased by the Rev. Abraham Hunsicker from William Tenant Todd, situated in Upper Providence township, and fronting the Perkiomen and Reading Turnpike road, in a community proverbial for sobriety, intelligence and morality. The work of the school was commenced on the 7th of November of the same year, with three pupils only; but before the end of the scholastic year the number of students had increased to

seventy-nine. The school was in successful operation for a period of twenty-two years, until it was absorbed in Ursinus College in 1870.

Rev. Abraham Hunsicker, a bishop of the Mennonite Church, was a man of strong religious convictions, and greatly felt the need of higher education among his Mennonite brethren. He expected to receive his chief support from them. But they soon became offended, called him proud, and finally excommunicated him from their fellowship. While he received anathemas from his brethren he grew in favor with other denominations and with men of liberal ideas. The school was non-sectarian from the start, conducted under the proprietorship of Rev. Abraham Hunsicker, the principalship of Henry A. Hunsicker, a son of the proprietor, and the leadership of Professor James Warren Sunderland, LL. D., who was head teacher for three years. No school in Eastern Pennsylvania was more popular. Students from all denominations of English and German communities between the Susquehanna and the Delaware, parts of New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware, flocked here to the popular boarding school. Here Lucretia Mott, the Quaker preacher, lectured on the abolition of slavery, and temperance reformers and anti-tobacconists found congenial spirits.

The first catalogue of Freeland Seminary sets forth the advantages and aim of the institution in the following manner:

"The edifice, an imposing structure of stone, four stories high, and surmounted with a handsome railing and cupola, occupies a beautiful eminence, commanding a delightful and extensive prospect of the surrounding country, interspersed with farms, villages and rich natural scenery.

"The adjoining grounds are extensive, and laid out with reference both to utility and ornament, affording ample grounds for healthful exercise, with pleasant groves and walks for more quiet recreation to encourage horticultural taste among the students.

"The internal arrangements of the establishment are most complete, and admirably adapted to their appropriate purposes; the dining halls, study rooms, dormitories and other apartments, being spacious, airy, and well provided with every re-

quisite of health, comfort and convenience of the student. The building is amply supplied with pure water.

"The domestic department is under the immediate supervision of the principal and his assistants, who board with the students and sit at the common table, exercising by their constant presence and parental intercourse a salutary influence upon the manners, habits and tastes of their pupils, and giving to the household as far as possible the character of a well-ordered Christian family.

"The discipline is mild but firm.

"An accurate record of the student's scholarship and deportment is kept and is sent to his parent or guardian at the close of every quarter.

"The design of the school is to impart a thorough and liberal course of instruction in all the branches of an English, Classical, and Scientific education.

"The institution is provided with apparatus for illustrating most of the principles of science, with a select library, and a cabinet of natural history.

"A normal class is organized and certificates of qualification are furnished to those competent to take charge of schools."

At the southwest corner of the present college grounds stood a large oak tree and the district school-house, called Todd's school-house. In the rear of the seminary edifice towered a number of oaks, a few of which still do sentinel duty. In front of the building the stumps had recently been removed. The public is indebted to the Rev. Henry A. Hunsicker, principal of Freeland Seminary for seventeen years and owner for a longer time, for all the matured trees on the college grounds, except the oaks, and for most of those on Captain Fetterolf's farm and on lots sold therefrom.

Four farm houses stood on each side of the turnpike road between the toll-gate and Perkiomen bridge, a distance of a mile.

The post office for Freeland Seminary for the first three years was Trappe. From 1851 to 1861 it was Perkiomen Bridge. As the school prospered a village began to grow around it and it received its name Freeland from Freeland Seminary. In 1855 an effort was made to have this village called Townsend, in honor of Samuel Townsend, who had

removed here from Philadelphia, and in the county map published about this time it is called Townsend; but this name did not last long. In 1861 the post office of Perkiomen Bridge was moved to the store of Frank M. Hobson, who was appointed postmaster. The following year the name of the post office was changed to Freeland.

When the Perkiomen Railroad was opened and time table No. 1, May 8th, 1868, was issued, there was a bitter fight over the name of the station, called Freeland. The railroad company finally decided to give a new name to the station, and accordingly called it Collegeville. In September of the same year the post office was moved to the station, and the name changed to Collegeville. Thus fell the fortifications of Freeland.

Section 7 of the Constitution of Ursinus College, adopted February 23, A. D. 1869, reads as follows:

The Board shall not change the name (Freeland) of the place in which the college is located, but shall use all proper means to have that name retained. This section shall, however, not be construed so as to prohibit the Board or College from designating the place by another name should its present name be altered.

In 1854 Benjamin A. Hunsicker, who had been steward of Freeland Seminary for several years, erected the brick boarding house, known as Prospect Terrace, on land purchased from Matthias Haldeman, adjoining the southern boundary of Freeland Seminary campus, to accommodate the overflow of students in the school and to keep summer boarders. On March 25, 1855, he died and was buried in Freeland Cemetery before the church edifice was completed in the same year.

The church, which was undenominational, supplied a long-felt want, and was a necessary adjunct to Freeland Seminary. It is now Trinity Reformed Church, and sustains a similar relation to Ursinus College. In 1856 the north wing, thirty-eight feet square, was built to supply an increasing demand to accommodate students. The second story furnished ample space for a first-class school room, which was used as a study hall. The third and fourth stories served as dormitories.

During the seventeen years of the Rev. Henry A. Hunsicker's principalship thirty-seven hundred and ninety-one students were under his instruction. His firm, yet mild and kindly management enabled his students to cherish most agreeable memories of their school days. He had few equals in school life in his aptitude to advise and instruct the young. The normal classes he organized supplied a want in the public schools. He furnished certificates of qualification to those competent to take charge of schools.

Examinations were held at the end of every quarter and a public exhibition at the close of the year. The exercises became very popular and did much to arouse the spirit of debate and to cultivate a taste for dramatic performance.

In 1859 the Millersville Normal Institute, under the supervision and principalship of its founder, was recognized by the State authorities as the first normal school under the law, and year by year others came to the front, all of which were superior competitors with the academies, as the former had the aid of the State.

The outlook was unfavorable. Meanwhile, county superintendents were holding institutes in the counties. The only defense was to face about and try to do what the superintendents and normal school did. In this Freeland Seminary was reasonably successful. Books on normal school methods were bought, the best methods were taught, institutes in the school were held, which became popular, and the school continued to be a teacher of teachers and thus survived.

At one time it was thought the wisest plan to save the school would be to establish a normal school in the district, to be located at Freeland. Meetings were held to take the initiatory steps and stock was solicited with a promise of profits which would accrue from such a school. Great opposition was aroused by the neighboring schools, and when it was ascertained that no profits could accrue from a normal school the scheme was abandoned.

The greatest enemy to the schools in the North was the Rebellion. Many female schools depending largely on Southern patronage were soon wound up.

The firing on Fort Sumter only fired the patriotism of Freeland Seminary. No institution was ever more loyal. Anti-slavery agitators were always welcomed before and during the Rebellion. The very name, Freeland, tells its own story.

But when the draft was put into execution, twenty-six students left for their homes in one day. The school was alarmingly decimated and more or less demoralized. These men preferred if drafted to be accredited to the districts from which they had come. The principal docked the salaries of his teachers without their consent and there were found a few rebellious spirits without any redress.

The invasion of the Keystone State was threatened, and the training of home guards became the order of the day. There arose a lively trade in books treating on military tactics. Teachers studied this new science more eagerly than classics and mathematics, and a West Point academy was right in the little village. These military manœuverings were hugely enjoyed. Right about face, left about face, forward, march, were words in the mouth of the youngest student. These drills were more inspiring than any base or football.

In 1865 Freeland Seminary was leased for a period of five years to Professor A. H. Fetterolf as principal and Captain H. H. Fetteroli as steward. During Professor Fetteroli's principalship the aim was to keep a school superior to that of former days. The school was successful, and half the number of students remained when Ursinus College commenced in 1870.

The school had many unruly boys from the towns, and severe chastisement was regarded a defense of virtue in those days. Four strokes of the razor-strop on the bare back was a cure for truancy; for tearing down the limbs of cherry trees to procure cherries the switching of the offender with the limbs he had broken until all were in splinters in the presence of the whole school was a reminder that this offense must not be repeated; and for private offenses the student was taken to that Gehenna, where now the sewage collects, to be flogged until he cried for mercy and promised to do better. To put an unruly

student out of the class-room by physical force was no uncommon occurrence.

The teachers during Professor Fetterolf's administration were the Principal, J. S. Weinberger, Jared T. Preston and Alexander McElrath.

The Act of Incorporation of Ursinus College was granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, February 5, 1869, and five days thereafter the Corporation was organized at a meeting of the Directors held in the city of Philadelphia. The property of Freeland Seminary was secured subject to an unexpired lease then held by A. H. Fetterolf. The name of the title of Ursinus College was accepted by the lessee, and the first annual catalogue of the officers and students of Ursinus College appeared in 1869 for the academic year of 1868-69.

The formal opening of Ursinus College took place on Tuesday, September 6th, 1870.

In a partial respect Ursinus College was a continuation, under an enlarged and more comprehensive form, of Freeland Seminary, and it was reasonable to expect that many would rejoice in its advancement to the stature of a college, and to manifest a lively interest in its prosperity.

Before Ursinus College was in operation a report had spread that Ursinus was going to be a school to prepare ministers. A controversy was raging in the church, and the management of the school was more or less affected by this spirit, and it was soon manifest that for the nucleus of the school dependence must be placed on another class of patronage. Some of the old patrons were offended, saying that the school was not what it used to be. There remained a remnant of the dear old Xi Rho Delta Society which had three degrees, called the Academic, the Pythagorean, and the Platonic. This society became inane, and the Schaff Literary Society succeeded it.

Most of the academies in existence forty years ago have vanished out of sight, or have assumed some other form.

The establishment of the normal schools by the State was a death blow to the academies. Before they were established it was the province of the academy to instruct young men to become teachers, to prepare them for college, to afford them a

preliminary education for the study of law, medicine, and theology, and to fit them for bookkeeping and business. The business college was unknown fifty years ago.

In the course of events Freeland Seminary helped Ursinus College greatly, and the establishment of the college happily transformed and perpetuated the educational work commenced on this spot by Freeland Seminary fifty years ago.

On the 7th day of April, 1853, Miss Jane L. Lewis Sunderland, of Freeland, opened a private seminary for young ladies. She occupied for this purpose, temporarily, a dwelling now owned by Captain H. M. Farnsworth in the borough of Chambersville, and the old garden school house, then standing on the opposite lot, that is now a part of the west end of Prospect Terrace. Her list of pupils for the first year consisted of seven members. Her list of pupils for the first session (a half-year) included forty-one day scholars—girls from the neighborhood—seven young lady-boarders from abroad, seven visiting pupils from the near by country, and eight young gentlemen, students of Freeland Seminary, forming a special class in drawing and painting, making a total of fifty-seven in attendance.

The second session of "The Institute" opened October 27th, 1853, in the new edifice now known as Greenwood Hall, with a small party of young lady-boarders from this and other States, and a greatly number of day pupils, but was henceforth exclusively for females.

The catalogue for the first year contained the names of one hundred and fifteen students, sixty of them from other States.

The Montgomery Female Seminary was, from the beginning, intended for a Preparatory Department of a contemplated college, of which as yet the public had no authorized intimation. Its separate history is connected with the legal announcement of the existence of the Pennsylvania Female College, at or near Chambersville bridge, Montgomery county, Pa.

On the 26th day of April, A. D. 1853, the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania passed an act granting a perpetual charter to a Board of Trustees, authorizing them to establish in the

PENNSYLVANIA FEMALE COLLEGE.

By Mrs. James Warrenne Sunderland.

On the 7th day of April, 1851, Madame LuAnnie Sunderland, of Freeland, opened a private seminary for young ladies. She occupied for this purpose, temporarily, a dwelling now owned by Captain H. H. Fetterolf, in the borough of Collegeville, and the old public school house, then standing on the opposite lot, that is now a part of the front yard of Prospect Terrace. Her Board of Instruction for the first year consisted of seven members. Her list of pupils for the first session (a half-year) included forty-one day scholars,—girls from the neighborhood,—one young lady boarder from abroad, seven visiting pupils from the near-by country, and eight young gentlemen, students of Freeland Seminary; forming a special class in drawing and painting, making a total of fifty-seven in attendance.

The second session of "The Institute" opened October 27th, 1851, in the new edifice now known as Glenwood Hall, with some twenty young lady boarders from this and other States, and a goodly number of day pupils, but was henceforth exclusively for females.

The catalogue for the first year contained the names of one hundred and fifteen students, many of them from other States.

The Montgomery Female Seminary was, from the beginning, intended for a Preparatory Department of a contemplated college, of which as yet the public had no authorized intimation. Its separate history terminated with the legal announcement of the existence of the Pennsylvania Female College, at or near Perkiomen bridge, Montgomery county, Pa.

On the 6th day of April, A. D. 1853, the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania passed an act granting a perpetual charter to a Board of Trustees, authorizing them to establish in the

State of Pennsylvania, in the county of Montgomery, and near Perkiomen bridge, so-called, an institution of learning for the liberal education of women (that is, to provide for them the means of study and culture equal to those usually enjoyed by young men at our American colleges), to be known by the name, style and title of the Pennsylvania Female College. This charter conferred the most ample powers, and full university privileges upon the corporation, and recognized the institution thus created as the equal of the best then existing in the Commonwealth.

The corporators named in the charter were James Warrenne Sunderland, Wright A. Bringhurst, William B. Hahn, Matthias Haldeman and John R. Grigg, with the privilege of increasing the number to twenty-five, which, however, was never done.

On the 10th day of April, 1853, the corporators named in the charter met by appointment in the office of J. W. Sunderland, in Freeland, near Perkiomen bridge, Montgomery county, State of Pennsylvania, and having duly examined the laws, and the execution of said charter, they, by unanimous vote, accepted the same, and by a Magistrate were separately sworn into office.

The Board was then duly organized by electing Wright A. Bringhurst President, and Matthias Haldeman Secretary. The Board thus organized, on motion, agreed to go into an election of a President for the institution, and on motion Dr. Sunderland was nominated and unanimously elected to that office. The President-elect, on request of the Board, submitted a plan for putting the Literary Departments into immediate operation in their contemplated work; also outlined a financial system, and other necessary arrangements, all of which were after due consideration unanimously adopted. In fact, every needful arrangement was made for the successful working of this new-fledged candidate for public favor.

"The Montgomery Female Institute" was wiped out, or, rather, metamorphosed into the Preparatory Department of the young college. On examination a number of its pupils were found sufficiently advanced in their studies to form a col-

lege class, which was accordingly done, and in a very brief time we found ourselves cordially recognized by other institutions as valuable and efficient co-workers in the great cause of liberal education. The first annual catalogue of the college showed a patronage of one hundred and fifty pupils, and a corps of nine professors and teachers.

Our patronage increased and our work improved from year to year. Among our pupils most of the States of the Union were represented, and a few were from foreign lands. In fact, the "experiment" had proved a success—in its work, in its popularity, and financially. It verified the correctness of our theory, namely, "that an educational institution, judiciously managed, might possibly be made financially self-supporting, and even self-endowing. We had but little capital to commence with, about \$4000 ready cash, some Western lands on which we raised a temporary loan (and sold two or three years afterwards for \$16,000 cash), and a loan of \$5000 negotiated and insured for ten years by a good friend, for which service, however, we were bound to pay him one per cent. per annum over and above the interest specified, and a "bonus" at the end of the period of ten years. In less than four years, if we mistake not, this contract was cancelled by mutual consent, and we paid him the per cent. specified up to date, and \$1000 cash bonus. We mention this transaction, not by way of complaint, for it was our own proposition, and is an incident in the history of the enterprise, which has always been regarded by us as a favor, for which, though it was well paid for in cash, we have ever felt grateful. When the college closed its doors, in 1880, it owned, clear of encumbrances, the building called "Glenwood Hall," Glenwood cottage, fronting on the turnpike; a large barn fronting on the avenue, and $26\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, divided into a large park set with ornamental trees, the college campus, an avenue nine hundred feet long, groves, orchards set with every kind of fruit trees to which the soil is adapted, ornamented with a great variety of shrubs and flowers, and a large amount of marble classical statuary. The college was provided with every appliance for carrying on the work of instruction—a good chemical laboratory, abundant philosophi-

cal apparatus, a library of some 3000 volumes, maps, charts, models, &c., &c. The institution was entirely free from debt.

Thirty thousand dollars had been repeatedly offered for it and refused. And yet all this value was but the surplus earnings of the school over and above its running expenses! Not a dollar had been contributed gratuitously by any one! Does not this fact corroborate the theory, that a college may be made at least self-supporting? We think so!

The institution educated to some extent about 2500 young women—cannot give the exact number, as some of our records were lost in the fire of 1875. Over one hundred of these had fulfilled the requirements for the Baccalaureate Degree, and gone forth accredited with the testimonials of educated women, and are, some of them, to-day filling creditable positions of trust and usefulness in society—have earned distinction in the learned professions, in the church, in associations of public beneficence, and more particularly in the most important vocation of all, the education of rising generations! The training of young women for the profession of teaching was a special purpose of the institution. We had effected arrangements to supply the rapidly increasing demand for efficient teachers for public schools, private families, and higher institutions of learning. And so extensively and rapidly did the demand for such increase that we could by no means fulfill it. From California to Maine, from Canada to Mexico, in South America, and in the East Indies, "wandering jays" from dear Glenwood have left their footprints, as they journeyed on in their mission of good will and useful service to the needy and suffering in distant lands! And, alas, how many of them, yet in their young years, have gone down the dark and devious path to that bourne whence no tidings ever return! The survivors will cherish their memory, but they, too, must soon pass away, and other generations may come and go unmindful that we have ever lived.

We might here suggest that the history of the Pennsylvania Female College should properly close with the cessation of its college work. But the question so often asked, viz., why the institution so unexpectedly abandoned its well doing,

has, as yet, I believe, never been answered authoritatively, and perhaps ought to be explained before the last opportunity of doing so shall have passed away.

"Fifty years" often work great changes, not only in the condition of individuals, but also in that of communities, institutions, and in public opinion. But probably no period of that length in human history has ever witnessed so many and so marvelous changes in almost everything pertaining to the interests of mankind as has the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The educational policy of our State is a novelty in these latter times—an improvement, perhaps, on that in vogue a century ago; but, nevertheless, may be objectionable in some of its features. Experience and careful observation may, perhaps, suggest some modifications, and, possibly, improvement. The State government has monopolized the secular business of training school teachers for their profession by instituting Normal Schools throughout its jurisdiction, and subsidizing their graduates to coöperate in accomplishing its peculiar purposes. It has gone further; combining its trained coadjutors, viz., the Normal Schools, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the County Superintendents, the local directors, and the improved incumbent among school teachers. They appear to have entered into a kind of "closed corporation," determined to manipulate and manage the entire business of the public school system, and all the Normal and High Schools of the Commonwealth! Understand us! We are not inveighing against all this—it may be right—the proper thing to do, the very best thing! We are simply trying to show why the Pennsylvania Female College, after twenty-five years of scholastic work, thought it prudent to retire from the educational arena! We could not hope to successfully compete with the enormous power and resources of the State. All the circumstances then existing served to indicate that our useful work was finished, and the mission of the institution fulfilled.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, September 14, 1898.]

SOME UNWRITTEN HISTORY OF TOWAMENSING.

By John C. Boorse, Esq.

The name Towamensing is now often improperly spelled Towamencin, and it is well to know whether we live in *cin* or if we *sing*. The township has two creeks called the Big and Little Towamensing; that these are Indian names is universally admitted. On June 10th and 11th, 1683, William Penn conveyed to Lenant Arrets 1,000 acres of land southeast of Kulpsville. In the same year Arrets conveyed 500 acres of this land to Dennis Konders, or Kinders, and in 1710 Konders deeded 275 acres to John Luckens. About this time it was named Bristol township. John Luckens sold his land to Joseph Luckens, and in 1778 the executors of Joseph Luckens conveyed 99 acres to Christian Weber, which is now the property of William H. Anders.

At this place was stationed the first post office, named Towamensing. About the year 1713 I find there was a survey made for 200 acres on Towamensing creek, being part of 4,000 acres. At this time and after, I find that deeds and papers generally had it written *sing*, a few *sen* or *sin*. However, at this time there are some people who insist on *cin*, and to those I would say there is no such word as *cin* to be found in any dictionary. It is no word, and consequently has no meaning, and, as Dr. Scott says, there is no such suffix as *cin* to any geographical name. I will quote the following as authorities for using *sing* instead of *cin*: Baldwin's Gazetteer, Lippincott's Gazetteer of the World, Pennsylvania Gazetteer, Sherman Days' History of Pennsylvania, published in 1843; Pennsylvania Archives, Worcester's and Webster's dictionaries, Smull's Handbook, United States Board on Geographical Names, appointed By President Harrison December 23d, 1891; National Spelling Book of 1808, Comly's Spelling Book, American Newspaper Directory, Acts of Assembly of September 13th, 1785, in rela-

tion to election districts, by which Towamensing, with eight other townships, was to vote at George Eckhart's hotel, in Whitemarsh township, called the second district, and an act of Assembly passed March 31st, 1797, provides: "That the election for the townships of Gwynedd, Montgomery, Hatfield, Towamensing, Franconia, Upper and Lower Salford, Skip-pack and Perkiomen, called the Fourth District, shall hold their elections at the house of Christian Weaber, in Towamensing township." Another act of Assembly, passed March 1st, 1806, added Franconia to the Fourth election district, that district to vote at the house of John Hughes, in Towamensing township. An act of Assembly was passed in 1871 to prevent cattle from running at large in Upper and Lower Towamensing townships, in Carbon county. Professor Balliet, late Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools, and Professor Hofecker both agree that *sing* is right.

In October, 1777, Frederick Wampole, Nicholas Schwenk and John Lukens made an appraisalment for rails burned for Henry Cassel by Washington's soldiers, and awarded £8 and 14s. damages, in Towamensing township. On August 3d, 1799, a public meeting, composed of a number of men from surrounding townships, was held at Michael Broad's hotel, in Worcester township, to indorse Thomas McKean for Governor, and nominations for other offices, in which is mentioned Towamensing. On March 25th, 1751, Edward Evans and Jacob Fry were appointed by the Court of Philadelphia Overseers of the Poor of Towamensing township. This office was abolished about the year 1808. The township auditors since 1769 have in almost all cases used *sing*. Moyamensing, in Philadelphia, is still spelled *sing*. Why should not that be spelled *cin* also?

I hold my ninth successive commission as a Justice of the Peace, and all the commissions except the last two are *sing*, and the others *cing* and *cin*. I have also followed the business of surveying and conveyancing for over thirty-six years, by which it became necessary for me to see and examine many hundreds of papers, and I found the suffix to the township spelled as follows: *Sen*, *son*, *sin*, *cen*, *cing*, *cin*, but in the

majority of cases the name was written *sing*. And there are some people even now who only say *Tomens*.

I found a deed from James Shattick to Jacob Gaedtschalk (Godshalk), dated the 31st day of the 12th-month, commonly called February, 1713, for 123 acres in Pensilvania, and another from Benjamin Wilson, attorney, to Abraham Antis (or Anders) and Abraham Yeacle, for 13 acres and 100 perches, a part of .810 acres, near the head waters of the Misshaminy river, in Philadelphia county, and now called Skippack creek (meaning a stinking pool of water). This tract was where now is Elroy.

David C. Kulp was appointed Justice of the Peace by Thomas McKean, Governor, in 1801, and held the office continually for about forty-three years, and also followed conveying and used *sing* for the township. He resided at the same place where I now reside, and also had a store. At the time he had the post office removed from the former place to his store, he named it Kulpsville, and had his son, Charles C. Kulp, appointed postmaster, and later it was removed to John Baker's store, now the residence of B. M. Clemens, and Baker was appointed postmaster. Then we had two mails a week from Doylestown to the Trappe, going over on Tuesday and returning on Wednesday. M. Loeb, editor of the *Morgenstern*, Doylestown, had the contract to carry the mail. Then there was very little mail matter; a letter was of rare occurrence and the office was worth about \$15 a year. On the opposite side of the road, where now is Bean's hotel, stood an old blacksmith shop and a little yellow house owned by Amos Adamson, who was a blacksmith. He was not rushed with work. He had a son John who mostly attended to blowing the bellows. The old man had a habit, when he had no work on hand and persons would pass along the road, to hammer on the anvil and say to John: "Blow up, John! Blow up, John! So and so or so and so are coming with horses!" There was also a blacksmith shop a few hundred yards further down, where the Kulpsville school-house now stands, occupied by Peter Mayberry. A Mr. King was his successor, who lived in a small frame house nearby. He had two noted boys, John and Reu-

ben. John, after the building of the lower hotel, rented of B. B. Hendricks the storeroom to start a store. Not having money enough to purchase the stock, he seemed to know where to get it, and accordingly started for it one evening, going to a Mr. Frick, near Line Lexington, but did not succeed in getting any money, as he was discovered at the desk before he had opened it. He was forced to leave very abruptly, and was afterward arrested but not convicted of the charge. Next he tried to get some goods at Sorver's store, in Skip-pack. He succeeded in getting some, and hid them in Reiff's woods before putting them in his store. Sorver had him arrested and convicted at court. I think his term was seven years. Myself and a few of my boy companions helped to make searches in the old barn at Kulpsville, and found watches, clothes, pots of butter, and many other articles hidden in the hay. Reuben King committed forgery, and was convicted at Doylestown for the offense.

The upper hotel was built by Mordecai Davies in 1794, where he conducted a store and hotel. The bricks used in constructing the house were made on the rear end of the farm now owned by J. J. Troxel. Mordecai Davies was a tailor by trade, and claimed that he made a coat for George Washington while the army was encamped near here, but this was not generally believed. In his old days he was childish; he would take nothing but lawful money of the United States, gold or silver, and lawful interest or none at all. When his second wife was buried he did not want any preaching and would not accept a ride to the place of burial, about one and a half miles distant. He said he could walk it. He used to boast of his memory, but said his son John had a better memory than he because he could remember things he had never seen or heard of. In politics he was a Democrat, but did not vote for many years. He lived to be about 87 years and was buried at Tennis' burying ground, along the Allentown road, where his two wives and a son and daughter lie. He started the tailor business in Isaac Hughes' house, now J. J. Troxell's. He used to walk to Philadelphia to buy trimmings and would carry them home on his back. In the store and hotel business he was

very successful. He also owned a large farm where part of Kulpsville is now located.

When I was a boy my grandfather always wished me to accompany him on his walks and would often call my attention to things that happened in his younger days. He showed me where Washington was encamped and where a great part of the woods had been cut down. This is a short distance east of this place and is now the property of H. S. Kriebel. In passing the church westward the road curved and on the south side there was a high bank, when he used to say: "John, now here we will hunt for bullets which the Revolutionary soldiers shot against this bank for practice." We found several of them, which I retained for a while. Going up the road a short distance we came to the farm then owned by John Hendricks, now a part of Mainland. Here he pointed out to me a large apple tree, and told me that during the encampment a Tory, or spy, by the name of Spitznagle was hung on that tree—that he had seen Washington there on horseback, but before the execution Washington raised his hat and gave command to the soldiers to form a ring around the tree so the small boys could not see the hanging. This made a very deep impression on my mind, and in passing along the road I never forgot the apple tree, which stood for many years after. He also pointed out to me the spot where some Indians had camped on Towamensing creek and later moved down to Shoemaker's dam, on the Skippack. He said the Indians made pretty willow baskets, which they used to bring to the houses and trade them for pork or bread. The Indians were friendly, but the people were very much afraid of them. He related that at one time a hog died for his father, and the Indians saw it lying in the barnyard and asked if they could have it. His father said yes, and they carried it away. What they did with it he never found out.

In 1840, in company with my father, brother and sister, I attended a Harrison mass meeting at the White Horse hotel, now Mainland, conducted by Jonas Boorse. Nearly everybody was present from the surrounding country without distinction of party or creed. As very few remained at home, there would have been a good chance for robbery, but at that time the peo-

ple were all honest and sociable. These meetings were something new and the people were anxious to be present. Matthias Stover, Charles Stover, Aaron and Abram Stover, Henry Boorse, Reuben Boorse, Benjamin H. Gotshalk, Daniel Godshalk, Daniel Hagey and I. W. Wampole, Esq., built a log cabin on Abram Stover's six-horse wagon, and on the morning of the meeting they hooked ten white horses to the wagon and drove down the road (no turnpike then) to Acuff's hotel, or Friend's Corner, to meet the Germantown delegation. On their return the log cabin stood in the grove a few hundred yards west of the hotel. There was no fighting then; they did not sell that kind of whisky there. They had lawful whisky, free from adulteration and added poisons. It was there that I saw the first United States flag, which I have in possession, and the first colored man I had ever seen. This colored man played on the violin between the speeches; I do not remember of any band being there, nor do I remember the names of the speakers, but I do remember that after the speaking was over a large number of men and boys on horseback came down to the lowland along the Skippack and paraded, singing the following:

Ye jolly young Whigs of Ohio
 And all ye sick Democrats, too,
 Come out from among the foul party
 And vote for old Tippecanoe.

Chorus:

And vote for old Tippecanoe, a noe,
 And vote for old Tippecanoe.

And if you anywise get thirsty
 I tell you what we can do,
 We can bring down a keg of hard cider
 And drink to old Tippecanoe.

Chorus:

And vote for old Tippecanoe, a noe,
 And vote for old Tippecanoe.

I remember the first two verses only.

About 1846 the Stover, Wampole and Godshalk boys organized a brass band, called the Union Band of Camp Wash-

ington. They met in the brick saddler shop built for Charles H. Stover, but the band did not survive many years.

In October, 1848, a soldiers' encampment took place on Washington's old camping grounds (then Stover's woods), about 400 yards east of the church. General Rumford was in command of the camp. I remember the Germantown Blues, Captain Davis' Company from ———, the first National Dragoons of Montgomery county, Troop A of Calvary. I. W. Wampole, Esq., was an officer of the Troop. His term of seven years expired that May, but the captain of the Troop desired him to stay until the encampment was over. The Troop had sixty-five members, of which Esquire Wampole is the only survivor. All the men connected with the log cabin and land have also departed this life except Mr. Wampole, now about 83 years old.

In olden times they used to have big movings on large wagons without springs. My father told me that one time there were a dozen or more wagons at a moving. After dinner and imbibing some "O, my joy," and when about ready to start, one suggested that they make a "nachbirly onspun," meaning a neighborly hitch. One asked what that meant and the proposer said: "Hook all the wagons together and fasten all the horses to the first wagon." This was agreed to, and in turning corners at the roads in some places they broke down from six to twelve panels of fence in making the turn. But this was their fun, and no law suit for damages followed.

The old school and meeting house was built about the year 1763 on land bequeathed by Jacob Godshalk, Sr., for a graveyard for the people called Mennonites or Baptists, as well as for some other Christian denominations in that township or neighborhood to bury their dead in. By inscriptions on the tombstones it appears there were burials there previous to the title. I found the tombstone of Catharine Overholtzer, dated 1741, and beside it Jacob Oberholtzer, who died 1771, and one of 1756. I have no doubt there are older interments, but there are no dates visible. The first marble stone was one to Abraham Funcks, July 13th, 1796. General Nash and other officers

are also buried here, on land given by John Boorse, Sr., for burial purposes.

The first school and meeting house building was burned by leaving hot ashes stand in the room in a wooden vessel over night during George Lukens' term of teaching. About 1830 a Mr. Rachob bequeathed £50 for school purposes. In 1805 a new meeting house was erected by the society near the then rebuilt school-house, where the Mennonites worshipped. I remember in the summers during my younger days I saw people worshipping there who were from 60 to 80 years old, some in their bare feet and without a coat, and all wore homespun clothes.

After services were over there was a general handshaking and soon the question was asked: "Var kan fire schлага?" (meaning, who can strike fire, using a steel, flint and punk, as they had no friction matches then). Then they lighted their pipes and cigars (the latter costing from 16 to 20 cents a hundred), and smoked away. They were very jovial, and it always appeared to me like one pleasant family, kind and obliging and always willing to render assistance to their neighbors. Hatred and malice seemed unknown to them. However, during the soldiers' encampment in 1848 they did not wish to allow the soldiers to fire over the graves of the dead officers, not deeming it proper, but their objections were finally withdrawn.

I knew Judge Swartz's great-grandfather well. He owned a large farm about half a mile southwest of this place. The house in which the Judge was born is still standing. Old Mr. Hendricks, in company with other old men, would often visit my grandfather, and much of their conversation was in "Low Dutch," of which I remember a few expressions, such as: "Gig gens, ha what sins sei nicht ha gableibe nu ligt ferkli in die dreck." The first word was a kind of a by-word and the rest meant: "If you would have stayed here the hog would not have fallen in the mud." Another was: "I weis e kan derker loope den durcker enkle." "I know I can run faster than you, tat uncle."

About the year 1841 or 1842 I saw a threshing machine

made by Christopher Master, of this place, to thresh with flails, in which you had to hold the sheaves over a frame and by some power the flails were made to revolve and strike the grain. I never saw the machine in operation. Master's father-in-law, Abraham Anders, riveted harness and leather together as early as 1800.

Some time during the 50's there was a strong party in the township called the "Know-Nothings." They met at different places, sometimes at Lukens' old school-house. This party was composed of Whigs and Democrats. Their meetings were secret, and when three-cornered papers were tacked or pinned on trees or corner posts on the roads it was a sign of a meeting. In the fall of 1854, I think, Van Wagoner, the great temperance orator, had his large tent pitched in Seth Lukens' field, on the Greenlane road. There was a good attendance in general. He was a good speaker and explained the bad results of using intoxicating liquors, but it appeared to have very little effect at that time or since.

I remember when there was no bridge over the Skippack creek above the one on the Skippack road, where there are now four, and two more under contract to be built. For one of these bridges the water to make the mortar for the stone work had to be hauled for some distance.

About sixty years ago, when I was a boy, in dry summers I used to drive our cattle to the Skippack for water, and at the most shallow places at that time the water was running from three to ten inches deep, and now in dry summers for a long distance there is no water at all, except in a few ponds.

February 18th, 1796, there was an Act of Assembly passed authorizing the first, second and third Presbyterian Churches of Philadelphia and the German Reformed Church of Worcester to raise by lottery £3,000 and 12s. for church purposes.

About forty years ago there was a miniature steamboat on the Towamensing creek, built by a German resident watch-maker. It operated very satisfactorily, and was witnessed by quite a number of people in the vicinity, some of whom had probably never seen a steamboat before or since.

These are but a few of the many incidents in our township

which I might relate, but time forbids. Many changes have taken place during the past century, and many more will take place in the next fifty or one hundred years, and it may be that in the future my descendants may relate to their cotemporaries the customs of the present time just as I have held up to you to-day the habits and traditions of our forefathers.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, September 16, 1899.]

reaction to take in this township and in this vicinity was enacted an important episode of the American Revolution. To others had been assigned a review of the encampment of the soldiers here, while to me there has been allotted an historical account of the township in which it took place. This must be needed, for upon such an occasion there is only time for the outlines of such a story.

This is one of the smaller, as well as one of the central, townships of Montgomery county. Its surface is undulating, diversified by hill and dale and crossed by streams flowing in a general course westward, seeking the Schuylkill. No one can claim anything of the grand or majestic concerning its scenery, but this is made up by the quiet beauty of an agricultural region long under excellent cultivation. In portions of the western section the aspect of the landscape, especially along the Schuylkill and the Towamencin, has something of the romantic and picturesque. Parallel ridges, one of great height, cross the township from northeast to southwest, but which are broken by the line of the Towamencin. The height above sea level ranges from 375 to 425 feet.

ROADS.

The roads mostly cross at right angles, either from southwest to northeast, or in the opposite direction, and are straight except where deflected by water courses. The four important highways are also historic roads. These are the Sunnyside and Springhouse turnpike, first called the North Water road and then the Manassas road. It divides the township into two nearly equal portions. It was laid out in 1773, and was improved in 1848. The Allentown road

TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP.

By Edward Mathews, of Lansdale.

We meet here to-day as a historical society in our annual reunion because in this township and in this vicinity was enacted an important episode of the American Revolution. To others has been assigned a review of the encampment of the soldiers here, whilst to my share has been allotted an historical account of the township in which it took place. This must be omitted, for upon such an occasion there is only time for the outlines of such a story.

This is one of the smaller, as well as one of the central, townships of Montgomery county. Its surface is undulating, diversified by hill and dale and crossed by streams flowing in a general course westward, seeking the Schuylkill. No one can claim anything of the grand or majestic concerning its scenery, but this is marked by the quiet beauty of an agricultural region, long under excellent cultivation. In portions of the western section the aspect of the landscape, especially along the Skippack and the Towamencin, has something of the romantic and picturesque. Parallel ridges, not of great height, cross the township from northeast to southwest, but which are broken by the line of the Towamencin. The height above sea level ranges from 375 to 425 feet.

ROADS.

The roads mostly cross at right angles, either from southwest to northeast, or in the opposite direction, and are straight except where deflected by water courses. The four important highways are also historic roads. These are the Sumneytown and Springhouse turnpike, first called the North Wales road and then the Manatawny road. It divides the township into two nearly equal portions. It was laid out in June, 1735, and macadamized in 1848. The Allentown road

passes through the eastern side of the township, entering at White's Corner and leaving it half a mile south of Elroy. It is rendered hilly because of its crossing several deep depressions, through which flow rivulets to the Skippack and to the Towamencin. It is an old road, and in Colonial times mile-stones were placed along it, bearing the date of 1768. The Morris road passes through the western part of the township for about two miles, or from the Towamencin to the Skippack. Previous to this it has formed the boundary separating from Worcester. This was laid out in September, 1741, from the Morris mill, Whitemarsh, to the mill of Garret Clemens, in Upper Salford. The Forty-Foot road crosses the upper part of the township from northwest to southwest. It was laid out prior to the Revolution, and there is reason to believe before 1760.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The early settlers of Towamencin were mostly of three nationalities—Welsh, Germans and Dutch. The first occupied the eastern section of the township, together with some homesteads in the centre. Their descendants gradually disappeared before and after the Revolution, so that now they form very few of the population. The families longest extant were those of Hughes and Edwards, and formerly those of Morgan, Evans, Davis and Ellis. The Germans settled in the northern and southern portions and later occupied most of the eastern portion, and have greatly increased and multiplied. The Dutch, or Hollanders, came to the western and northern central parts, and their descendants are yet well represented in the population in such names as Hendricks, Boorse, Godshalk, Lukens, and formerly that of Tennis and others.

The settlers were mainly divided into three sects—Quakers, Menmonites and Schwenkfelders, with the addition of a few Reformed and Lutheran. They had all suffered from persecution in Germany, Holland and Great Britain. The Quakers never had a meeting-house, but were members of Gwynedd. They included some people who were not Welsh, such as the Lukens family, which was of Holland origin. The Germans came from two widely separated parts of Europe—

Silesia and the Rhine provinces, then called the Palatinate. The Schwenkfelders were from the former province. The Hollanders were mostly Mennonites, and also a portion of the Germans. In later times have appeared a few Methodists, some Evangelicals, and also Brethren or Dunkards.

POPULATION.

By the enumeration of 1734 there were thirty resident landholders. Multiplying this number by five one may judge that already one hundred and fifty persons were living in the township, including women and children, and that at least thirty log cabins and stone houses were scattered among the forests, upon meadow banks or along the streams.

Within the next forty years the early settlers had ceased from their labors, had passed away and a new generation occupied the places of the pioneers. The land had become divided into smaller parcels and supported more people, whilst there were more mechanics. The assessment of 1776 furnished 77 names, indicating a population of at least 350. The militia enrollment of about the same period gave 91 names, including, of course, some young men not found in the tax list. By the end of the last century there was a further increase to 473. In 1820 it was 571, and in 1840 there was 673. The most rapid growth was from 1840 to 1880, during which period the population nearly doubled in number, rising to 1282. During the next ten years there was a decrease to 1139. Whether the census of 1900 will show it to be stationary will soon be apparent. As in other portions of the agricultural districts, the tendency of population has been from the rural districts towards the towns and cities, and Towamencin has always had agriculture for its chief industry. In the future better and quicker modes of transit and the introduction of manufactures may tend to check this depletion of the population and then to increase the number of people.

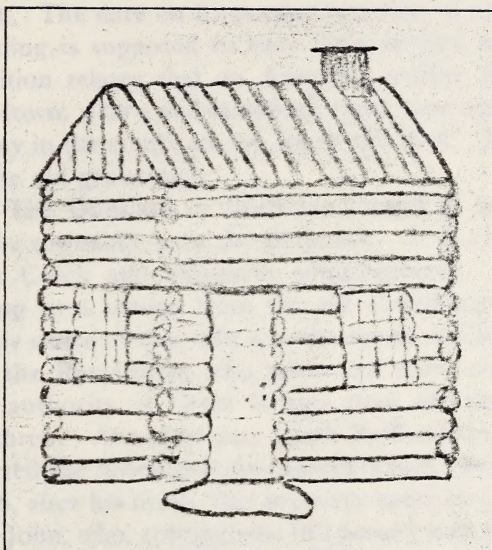
In the list of thirty-two landholders in 1734 nine were undoubtedly Welsh, seven German and nine Dutch. The advent of the Schwenkfelders in that year soon changed this triangular balance. In the assessment of seventy-eight residents in

1776 there are only eleven Welsh names, thirty-one undoubtedly Dutch and thirty-six German. In this list the family of Godshalk was represented by seven names, that of Hendricks by eight, Lukens by five, Tennis by three, Evans by five, and Wampole by three.

CHURCHES.

The two original church organizations were the Schwenkfelders and the Mennonites. The five others are comparatively modern. The Mennonites selected a site for a place of worship and a place of burial for their dead along the great road that is visible from where we are now gathered. Amid well shaded grounds stands their meeting-house, severe in its plainness and simplicity in accordance with the principles of these people. The first house was built in 1764 on a site 200 yards west of the present one, and which was also used as a school-house. This building was burned in 1804. A stone structure, erected in 1805, was succeeded by the present one in 1862. The neighboring grave yard was used as a place for interment long before the building of a house of worship, as the oldest tombstone with a legible inscription is to the memory of Catharine Oberholtzer of the date of 1741. Here also repose the bodies of a few notable people, not of the Mennonite faith, whom sad fortune of war brought to the gates of death whilst staying in this vicinity. These were General Francis Nash, Colonel Boyd and Lieutenant Smith, of the American army, either slain or mortally wounded at the battle of Germantown. Amid the plain memorial stones of this peaceful sect stands an imposing monument—that of the warrior General Nash and his comrades, erected by the citizens of Montgomery county in 1844.

In the southern corner of the township, some miles away, is the place of worship long ago selected by another and a very different sect—the Schwenkfelders. About this time were selected the homes of the earlier settlers of that people in 1734 and 1735. There were others also in western Gwynedd and some in Worcester. The present brick edifice was built in 1894, preceded by the one built just forty years before, a short



Pencil sketch by John C. Boorse, Esq., of the Towamencin Mennonite Meeting-House, standing at the time of the burial there of General Nash, Colonel Boyd, Major White and Lieutenant Smith, in October, 1777. This log house was burned in 1805 and was succeeded by a stone building which was replaced about 1860 by the present stone structure.

A cut of the monument at the grave of General Nash appears herein, facing page 122.

Further interesting data by Mr. Boorse concerning the meeting house appears herein on page 64.

distance away. The small grave yard on the edge of the forest is thickly studded with tombstones, though the families represented are comparatively few, they being such as Snyder, Seipt, Schultz, Heebner, Weigner, Dresher, Gerhard, Souder, Reinwalt, Kriebel and Anders. A rough stone bears the date of 1745. As meetings were first held in private houses, it is a matter of uncertainty when the first house of worship was built. The date on its portico was that of 1795, but the main building is supposed to have been erected much earlier. A tradition relates that an American soldier fleeing from Germantown, weary and famished, came here and obtaining some honey in the comb, ate too freely and died. His body was laid in the old graveyard.

The Dunkard or Brethren Church is in the west corner of the township, near the Skippack. It is a branch of the Indian Creek and Skippack congregations. Its building was owing to a schism from the old Perkiomen meeting. The prime cause of this split was the revolt of Christian Funk during the Revolution, who advocated more active resistance to the authority of Great Britain than did the majority of his brethren. At a later date Jacob Reiff sided with Funk, and so erected the meeting-house upon his own grounds in 1814. In 1816, after his death, this property came into possession of his son John, who, coming into full accord with the Brethren, they came into possession by his will.

Time enough has elapsed to render Christ, or the Brick Church, in which we are assembled, an historic church edifice. It has always been the church home of two congregations—the Lutheran and the Reformed. It was built more than sixty years ago, largely through the efforts of Isaac Wampole, who contributed toward its erection and left it \$2000 by his will of 1837. The corner-stone was laid May 21, 1833, and the dedication took place on October 15 of the same year.

SCHOOLS.

The schools of any township rank along with the churches in their moulding and guiding influences upon the intelligence, the manners and the morals of the community. These schools,

six in number, are taught by seven teachers, whose pupils number about 240. In later times they have advanced along the same lines as those of other districts of Montgomery county, till we flatter ourselves in considering them better than ever before. As to their earlier history the account must be brief. The knowledge of what scholastic advantages were enjoyed by the children of the first settlers has been lost in oblivion. The Schwenkfelders and Mennonites established schools during the Colonial period at their places of worship. One conducted by the former sect in Lower Salford was available for pupils from the northern part of the township. The Tennis school, on the Allentown road, near Drake's Corner, was in existence before 1814. Fry's school-house, in the west, was built in 1830. In the east a school-house formerly stood near the Allentown road, on the later Loux property. Among the teachers of the olden time may be named George Lukens, David Kriebel, Abraham Moyer, Daniel Kriebel, John Ramsay, Thomas White, Elizabeth Lukens, Enos Benner, Enoch Miller and Jefferson Lewis.

MILLS.

There were three or four historic mills in the township, built in Colonial times. The present Kriebel mill, on the Skip-pack, formerly known as Godshalks, is known to have existed in 1767. The former Anders mill, on the Towamencin, in the south part of the township, was built about 1825 by Joseph Anders. The Kooker mill, a couple miles further down that stream, was in existence before the Revolution, when it was owned by Johannes Springer. In 1776 Christopher Reinwalt was taxed for a mill and 58 acres. It was somewhere near the site of the later Anders mill.

TAVERNS.

In the olden times the taverns or inns were a more important factor in the social, business and political life of the community than at the present day. It is supposed that the first inn was established by a Welsh family named Hughes, and opened on the great road dividing the township. One bearing that name is noted in the maps of 1758 and 1776, sit-

uated on the present Snyder property, two miles southeast of Kulpville. It was later moved half a mile further up and kept by Israel Tennis, Joseph Lukens, and by Christian Weber in 1797. An inn was opened at the cross roads, now Kulpville, by Mordecai Davis in 1794.

KULPSVILLE.

The unincorporated village of Kulpville is the only one in the township. It now has nearly seventy dwellings and about 350 population. It has been the slow growth of over a century. Before 1790 there was no collection of houses here. There were farm houses at the late Zimmerman, Reiff, Wood and Becker places, with others not far distant. The opening of a store and tavern by Mordecai Davis may be said to have started the village. Another store was started by David C. Kulp in 1812, after whose family the place was named. The present hotel was built and licensed in 1842. The public hall was erected in 1856, and the Methodist Church built in 1862.

ELECTION AND POLITICS.

In a paper of this kind, and upon such an occasion, any partisanship in politics is debarred. We can only state facts and furnish no arguments. The politics of the township has been one of the most one-sided of any in Montgomery county. The majority first voted with the Federalists, then with the Whigs, and later with the Republicans. So long ago as 1832 Wolf, the Democratic candidate for Governor, had 17 votes, whilst Ritner had 97. From 1830 to 1835 there was an anti-Masonic party in opposition to the Democracy. The tenets of the former strongly appealed to the beliefs of the Mennonites and Dunkards, who were then much opposed to all secret societies. In 1836 Jacob Fry, one of the most distinguished citizens of Montgomery county, descended from an old Towamencin family, had a large majority for Congress in the county, but only 13 votes in the township, to 77 cast for Mulvaney. Not to weary with later statistics, the vote of 1896 was 245 for McKinley, to 36 for Bryan.

ENROLLMENT OF MILITIA IN THE REVOLUTION.

Although the predominant sentiment of the township at the close of the Colonial period was against wars and fighting, yet there were those who sprang to arms at the call of their country. This is no disparagement of those then who, perhaps in advance of their age, believed that mankind should settle all differences by peaceable methods, without recourse to swords, cannon and bayonets, the dread instruments of war. The township militia company was under the command of Captain Daniel Springer, who lived near the Towamencin, in the western quarter of the township. Under his command, for purposes of drilling, were enrolled fifty-five citizens. Their captain saw active service, but the proportion of his men who did so was small.

PROMINENT FAMILIES.

Without invidious distinction, it may be said that various family names loom up in the history of the township with more prominence than others, either in numbers or in achievement. Among these may be named Hughes, Davis, Edwards, Boorse, Anders, Kriebel, Hendricks, Godshalk, Kulp, Wampole and Fry. The latter, descended from Heinrich Fry, settled in the southeast section, and among his descendants were found physicians, eminent clergymen, politicians, members of the Legislature, a Congressman, and Jacob Fry was Auditor General of the State of Pennsylvania.

CONCLUSION.

It was the fortune of war that led to the encampment of the American army at a critical period of the Revolution within this township and upon this site along the forest-covered slope arising from the Skippack. Perhaps the people in the neighborhood then rather deemed it an ill fortune that brought the soldiers here—for there are unpleasant incidents connected with the encampment of any army anywhere. We can now hardly appreciate the sacrifices then made by the officers and men of the patriot army in behalf of their country and their

posterity. All was then gloom and uncertainty whether the struggle was to prove an abortive insurrection or a glorious revolution that should plant a great republic. They dwelt here for a while amid the increasing frosts of autumn. Fortunately they had no prophetic vision of the terrors of Valley Forge during the months to come. Neither could they foresee them.

[Read at the meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society, at Christ Church, Mainland, September 16, 1899.]

THE SKIPPACK.

By James Y. Heckler.

From the meadows of Franconia,
Where the little streamlets rise;
From the brooks that flow and babble
Swells a stream of larger size.

Up along the Welshtown valley
And the bounds of Souderton,
Waving grain and rolling country
Blend your vision in the sun.

Gathering rains still flow together
Up along the "Water Street,"
Where the infant Skippack rises,
Where the smaller branches meet.

Where the highway of the nation
Scooped the hills and filled the dales,
Carries down the country's commerce
Over tracks of iron rails.

There the trains of coaches daily
By the Titan steam are drawn,
And the roar of rushing engine
Echoes in the morning dawn.

Farther down where "Seven Hundred"
Sends her rains from field and hill,
Spans a bridge the "Sluggish Water,"
Northward from Franconiaville.

Where the farms produce abundant,
Wave the fields of golden grain,
And the long romantic meadows
Wind around the hill and plain.

Flows the stream through eastern Salford,
Gathering volume as it flows;
Through the daisy-covered meadows,
Where the slender willow grows.

Tell me not the hills are ugly,
Skipack Valley has no charms,
For the hills and dales romantic
Constitute our choicest farms.

Crested on the rounded hillock
Little Mainland sits, a queen
Rising from the pleasant valley,
With her meadows robed with green.

Where the Continental Army
Drank the water from the brook,
And the hungry, waiting soldiers
'Turkeys, geese and chickens took.

There the bridge bestrides the Skippack,
At the dam built long ago,
And the stream is taken downward
Through the flume and mill below.

Flows the stream through Towamencin,
Taking in the Little Branch,
Where the meadows, white with daisies,
Best befit some cattle ranch.

Climb the hills and view the country
With its fields of waving grain,
Where the dells and winding brooklets
Gather all the surplus rain.

Long ago this vale was settled
And the woodman swung his axe,
Where the fathers thrust their sickles,
Where the mothers spun their flax.

Now the stream is spanned with bridges
Where our fathers used to wade,
Where the hands of toil and labor
Great improvements since have made.

There the Skippack, "Sluggish Water,"
Now becomes a larger stream,
Where the Towamencin wanders
Till she mingles with the same.

Spanning all the stream with arches,
Bearing up a ponderous load,
Long a bridge was here constructed
To improve the Skippack road.

Near this bridge a vast obstruction,
An extensive dam is laid,
Where the water through a channel
To a mill wheel is conveyed.

There a tributary empties,
Draining many a field and hill,
Coming down from little Lucon,
Afterward from Skippackville.

Where the Inden-hoffens labored
To enlarge their cultured fields,
Where the soil is still productive
And in turn rich harvests yields.

Flows the stream through Skippack township,
Through the land of crooked roads,
Where the corn produces largely
And the watermelon grows.

Here we find a tributary
Flowing upward—so to speak—
Rising down in Gwynedd township,
Called the Zachariah Creek.

Comes the stream through East Worcester,
Draining part of Hamsher's Hill;
Flowing thence through spacious meadow,
Empties out at Bean's old mill.

Passing by Green Hill we notice
Where the stream has formed a curve;
As we wander down the valley,
Higher lands we shall observe.

Down at Markley's dam are lowlands,
And the dam is deep and long,
A large reservoir of water,
But its breast is wide and strong.

There a tributary empties,
Opposite to Markley's mill,
Which is gathered from the streamlets
Draining old Mathatchey hill.

Old Mathatchey, Dutch Modetshy,
Whence the import of thy name?
Who can give the definition?
Who can tell from whence it came?

There are numerous winding meadows,
Fountains, springs and flowery brooks,
Tangled copses, strips of woodland,
With their wild and haunted looks.

There's a dam, almost in ruins,
Which belonged to Kuster's mill;
When a lad I saw it standing
Unrepaired beside the hill.

Everywhere the hand of labor
Has been working out its plan,
Which has brought remuneration
To its head and toiler—man.

This was Mat VanBebber's township
In the old Colonial days,
But was changed to Perkiomen,
Skipack now has filled its place.

Here the early comers settled
And commenced to tug and toil;
They removed the tangled forest
And began to till the soil.

Here along the Skipack valley
The first log cabins stood,
Here the Dutch and Germans settled
And endured much hardihood.

There's another bridge and turnpike;
Just above is Keyser's mill;
There is Evansburg, a village,
There is also Skippack Hill.

Evansburg from Owen Evans
Took its name long time ago;
Hustletown was its former name,
For our fathers called it so.

Down beyond the bounds of Skippack
There are hills of eminence;
There's the Baptist church and graveyard;
This is now Lower Providence.

There's another bridge and turnpike
On the way to Norristown,
Where the hills are long and weary,
Where the streams come rushing down.

On that long and high upheaval
Are some interesting farms;
There are large and costly buildings,
Scenes and views that have their charms.

All those hills are cultivated,
And the land is high, it seems;
There are also runs and brooklets
Pouring down their rapid streams.

Deep and narrow is the valley,
As appears from hills around,
And the stream, in just accordance,
Wide and deep, may there be found.

There's a bridge near Perkiomen
Where the Skippack valley ends,
Where the floods unite and mingle
As acquaintances and friends.

[Read at the meeting of Montgomery County Historical Society, in Christ
Church, Mainland, Sept. 16, 1899.]

CHRIST REFORMED CONGREGATION.

By Rev. S. M. K. Huber.

In presenting my historical sketch of the Reformed congregation of Christ Church I must lament the fact of the meagre resources at hand for gathering the facts pertinent to this. We must depend mainly on oral tradition, inasmuch as the early records of the congregation were very poorly kept, and whatever is left to us contains only a few facts. However, it is a well-known fact from the records at hand, that this church was built in the year 1833 by a few Reformed and Lutherans of the community living remote to other places of worship of the same denomination; besides they were aided by the Mennonite brethren in the community, who have always borne a friendly spirit to Christ Church from the day of its origin to the present time.

The corner-stone of the new building was laid May 27, 1833, and many valuable desposits were made in the cavity of the stone, such as a Bible, Reformed and Lutheran catechisms, and a hymnbook, then used by the German congregations. Labor continued during the season regularly and uninterruptedly until the building was completed, and on October 15, 1833, it was dedicated to the service of God, at which occasions, the laying of the corner-stone and dedicatory services, prominent Reformed and Lutheran clergymen participated.

Prominent among the originators of the church was Jacob Sorver, an elder, of Skippack, Benjamin Reiff, Esq., and others, of the Reformed congregation, the Wampoles and others of the Lutherans, which latter family has nearly become extinct in the community. The above named Jacob Sorver was formerly a member of Wentz's Reformed Church, of Worcester, but owing to a little friction between himself and Pastor Wack for irregularity in attendance and tardiness on the part of the pastor, Sorver withdrew and sought coöperation in this com-

munity for a new church and found the same in the above named persons and others. Sorver also, besides paying \$300 for the erection of the church, left an endowment. The whole amount of the Sorver endowment for the Reformed congregation was \$1900, which was increased since by \$50 from Brown and a few hundred dollars from the late George Heckler, a part of which is still intact of the present membership of the Reformed congregation.

The same year in which the church was built the Reformed congregation was organized with forty-five members, and has existed then for sixty-five years, during which time it was served by eight different pastors. The first pastor was Rev. Henry Bosler, who organized the congregation and served it with success and satisfaction for five years. Rev. Bosler preached his farewell sermon on May 12, 1839. The second was only a supply pastorate in the person of Rev. Dr. Samuel Helfenstein, then of Gwynedd, now North Wales. The third pastor was Rev. Jacob William Hangen (not Hanger, as said in the Mathews History of Towamencin). He was neither a Hanger by trade, profession nor name. Also other errors occur in the same history in reference to a Lutheran pastor—Rev. George Wentzel—and not Wentz. Wentz is a Reformed and not a Lutheran name. Rev. Hangen served the congregation two years, and after a faithful and devoted pastorate he died at Skippack, at a Mr. Longabach's, on Monday evening at 6 o'clock, February 23, 1843, where he was engaged previously in a short series of meetings. There he preached his last sermon. His remains are buried in the cemetery at the Trappe Reformed Church. During my early pastorate among these people many were the kind remarks made in reference to this faithful servant of God by the older members of the congregation. Truly the life of the just lives on among after generations. The fourth pastorate was also a supply for one year only in the person of Rev. Henry Gerhart, who was truly a good man and highly respected for his piety. He also aided in the building of the church by a liberal subscription. When I entered the pastorate here thirty-three years ago some of his family, the widow and children, were still members here. His

remains are sleeping in the cemetery of Leidy's Reformed Church. The fifth pastorate was Rev. A. Berkey and not Bentz, as Mathews again errs in his "History of Towamencin." He took charge of the congregation August 4, 1843, and after an unsuccessful pastorate of three years he resigned. The sixth pastor was Rev. John Naille, who is still living at the age of nearly 100 years, and is the oldest Reformed minister living. His present home is at Trappe. He took charge of the congregation in the year 1846. His ministry had to contend with serious difficulties growing out of the charter movement, which found opposition by a large and respectable portion of members who were aided by the pastor. When the charter party succeeded and defeated their opponents the opponents and their families were finally excommunicated irregularly. Among the excommunicated were twenty-one heads of families, some of which afterward, with their families, went to other churches. Some returned again during my pastorate and some died in grief without again returning to the fold of the church. After these years of struggle were ended Rev. Naille's usefulness was gone by, and he resigned in 1857, after a pastorate of eleven years. The seventh pastor was Rev. W. G. Hackman, who entered in February, 1858. Who supplied the congregation during the interim of Rev. Naille and Rev. Hackman's pastorate is not recorded. Rev. Hackman was a good man, humble and devoted, but did not succeed in healing the difficulties which sprang up during the previous pastorate, yet he was respected by all. After a pastorate of eight years and eight months he resigned and preached his farewell sermon on November 18, 1866. He afterwards went West, where he died and was buried in the State of Indiana.

The eighth pastorate dates from December 25, 1866, in the person of your humble servant, whose privilege it was to minister now nearly thirty-three years to this congregation, which is half of the time of its existence. Allow me the privilege to here remark that my worthy colleague, Rev. James L. Becker, also holds the pastorate of the Lutheran congregation for twenty-two years, which is two-thirds of the time of its existence. In this connection I would also remark that the pres-

ent chorister, John Apple, has rendered faithful services to these congregations for no less than forty-five years, and as far as knowledge permits us to speak there is no service as chorister for any congregation in this country on record for this length of time.

My pastorate was commenced under very discouraging circumstances. The congregation was not only weak, having but forty-one members at that time, but was distracted and discouraged, and the pastor, with no store of experience at hand, found it a venturesome experiment, but by humble and faithful reliance on the Great Head of the church, who is always ready and present to help in the time of need, succeeded to some extent at least in bringing back many scattered members and bridged over the chasm made some years prior. The existing difficulties required toil, patience and self-denying labor for years, but during all these years we were conscious of the fact that we were in the *straitenda kircha*, or church militant, and that nothing perfect could be expected.

Before the existing difficulties during Rev. Naille's pastorate the Reformed congregation was stronger, but afterward for many years it had to content itself with the struggling minority over against the Lutheran sister congregation. However, up to this time, it has recovered some of its early life and vigor, numerically, and, we trust, also spiritually. The congregation has an enrollment of 175 solid, active members, with the prospect of a healthy and steady growth in the future.

[Read at the meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society at Christ Church, Mainland, September 16, 1899.]

CHRIST LUTHERAN CONGREGATION.

Rev. J. L. Becker, Lansdale.

Christ Church, Towamencin, which was erected by and is the property of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation and the German Reformed congregation worshipping in the said church, is located in Towamencin township, Montgomery county, Pa., on the Springhouse and Sunnyside turnpike, about four miles west of Lansdale and nine miles east of Trappe.

The first steps toward the building of this church were taken in September, 1832, when subscriptions were commenced with this object in view. Frederick Wampole "was appointed treasurer to receive all moneys which should be subscribed toward building said church, and to apply and pay said moneys received by him for materials and workmanship in building and erecting said church."

The prime mover in establishing this house of worship and organizing a congregation was Isaac Wampole, conveyancer, and uncle to Rev. Jacob Wampole (the first pastor of the Lutheran congregation), who, in addition to a subscription of \$500, also donated 162 perches of ground for a church and burial ground. This lot was on the 23d day of January, 1834, by deed duly executed and recorded at Norristown in Deed Book No. 50, page 461, conveyed to "Jacob Sorver and Frederick Wampole, their heirs and assigns, and the heirs and assigns of the survivors of them forever; in trust nevertheless at and for a site for a church and burial ground for the use and accommodation of Christ Church, and the German Reformed congregation of the said Christ Church, at all time thereafter forever."

Material was purchased and hauled on the ground during the winter of 1832-33, and building operations began early in the spring of 1833. The corner-stone of the church was laid

on Whit-Monday, May 27, 1833, Rev. George Roeller, pastor of the Old Goshenhoppen Church, being the Lutheran minister, officiating. In the cavity of the stone were deposited an English Bible, a German hymnbook, used conjointly by the Lutheran and Reformed churches in North America, Luther's small catechism and the catechism used by the German Reformed Church.

The church, erected at a cost of \$2178.64, was consecrated on October 15, 1833. The Lutheran ministers present and officiating were Rev. Philip F. Mayer, of St. John Church, Race street, Philadelphia; Rev. Dr. C. R. Demme, of Zion's and St. Michael's, Philadelphia; Rev. George Roeller, of Montgomery county; Rev. George Heilig, also of this county, and Rev. Jacob Wampole, of Chester county. Dr. Mayer performed the consecration service and preached in English on Psalm 65: 2. Dr. Demme opened the afternoon service and preached a German sermon on Matthew 11: 27.

On October 19, 1833, the following were duly elected by the members of the Lutheran congregation as elders and church wardens to serve the congregation one year: Elders, Isaac Wampole, Jonas Boorse, Frederick Wampole; church wardens, Jonas Godshalk and George Schwenk. Frederick Wampole was elected trustee. At the same time Rev. Jacob Wampole, pastor of Zion's and St. Peter's congregations in Chester county and Limerick and Trappe Churches in Montgomery county, was elected pastor of the congregation. His acceptance of their call united this congregation with Trappe charge or parish. This extensive parish, however, soon so overtaxed the strength of the pastor that it became necessary to divide the charge. Accordingly Mr. Wampole resigned in January, 1834, and after April confined himself to the two Chester county congregations.

On September 27, 1834, at a regularly called meeting of the members, rules for the government of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Christ Church, Towamencin, were adopted, which were in force as its constitution until the close of the year 1889, when a new constitution in the form of a charter adopted by the congregation and granted by the Court

of Montgomery county on December 2 went into force, together with by-laws in conformity with the constitution for congregations recommended by the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of North America.

The congregations resigned by Rev. Jacob Wampole, namely, Trappe, Limerick and Towamencin, were now constituted a separate charge, and on March 12, 1834, they elected the Rev. John W. Richards, of New Holland, Lancaster county, as their pastor. He served the congregation from June of that same year until March, 1836, when he received and accepted a call to Germantown. During his pastorate two new congregations were organized and added to the charge—the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Pottstown and the New Jerusalem congregation (also known as Keely's), about one mile from Schwenksville.

Rev. Jacob Wampole was again elected pastor on March 21, 1836, and entered upon his duties in April. He continued his labors until the close of the year 1837, when he was seized with an acute attack of quinsy, which in a very short time proved fatal, he dying on January 3, 1838.

The successor to Rev. Jacob Wampole was Henry S. Miller, who was unanimously elected on January 30, 1838. He accepted the call and preached his introductory sermon on April 29. The charge consisted of Trappe, Limerick, Keely's, Pottstown and Towamencin. He received a salary of \$100 from Christ Church. An additional amount, varying from \$32 to \$38.50, was granted him from the year 1840. Rev. Miller continued to serve until spring, 1852, when he resigned. He preached his farewell sermon on May 9.

At this period in the history of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in this country efforts were made in many congregations to introduce certain practices known as "new measures." Such an innovation must have been tried in Christ Church about this time. Accordingly on February 2, 1840, the Church Council met in said church for the purpose of taking such measures into consideration as may serve to prevent the pastor and members of said church from holding the so-called prayer

meetings, protracted meetings and night meetings in said church.

It was resolved:

"That we, the undersigned Council, do in many instances consider such meetings as improper and producing religious contentions in neighborhoods wherein they are held. We, therefore, do unanimously report that no such meetings as above mentioned shall hereafter be permitted to be held in said church.

"We do also say that there shall be no night meetings in any building that shall or may at any time be erected directly or indirectly on the land now belonging to said Christ Church."

Rev. George A. Wenzel, of Northampton county, preached at Christ Church on June 29, 1852. After the service an election was held, resulting in his unanimous election as pastor. A call was extended to him by conferees from Trappe, Keely's and Towamencin, which stipulated the following salary: Trappe, \$255; Keely's, \$60, and Towamencin, \$155. He accepted the call and began his labors in the month of August. Rev. Wenzel remained in charge of the congregation but two years. Having received and accepted a call to Philadelphia he resigned in August, 1854, his resignation to go into effect in September.

Rev. A. S. Link, of Centreville, Cumberland county, Pa., succeeded the Rev. Wenzel in November, 1854, at a salary of \$175. Dr. Kretschmann writes in the history of the old Trappe Church that Rev. Link was in sympathy with the "new measure movement" and that after having preached on the subject he introduced "social prayer or prayer meetings," holding them at the houses of such members as received this innovation. The majority of the members, however, feared that it would lead to extreme emotionalism, and the result was that the congregation was brought to the verge of disruption. The movement which Rev. Link had thus aroused he was unable to control, and rather than see a division in the congregation he handed in his resignation in December, 1858, to go into effect March, 1859.

Rev. George Sill was invited to preach in Christ Church on February 21, 1859, which invitation he accepted. Immedi-

ately after the service he was unanimously elected the successor to Rev. A. S. Link. He accepted the call extended to him from the Trappe charge, consisting at this time of Trappe, Keely's and Towamencin—Pottstown having been served by Rev. George F. Miller since August 20, 1848, and Limerick since May 1, 1853, and entered upon his labors in April, 1859.

The last several years of Rev. Sill's pastorate were years of a good deal of disturbance, especially in the Trappe Church. This may be assigned to two causes: The first of these was the Civil War in this country. The beginning of the 60's were years of great political excitement, bringing trouble not only to State and Nation, but in many cases to church and family. The other cause was Rev. Sill's sympathy with the so-called "protracted and prayer meetings," which in those days were the source of disturbance in many churches. On these two subjects the Rev. Sill was so outspoken in the Trappe Church as to arouse the feelings of his members against him, and finally to bring his pastorate to a sudden and unexpected close. A by-law of Augustus Church, Trappe, enacted on April 14, 1816, making provision for an annual election of the pastor, which, however, for a number of years, was left a dead letter, was revived on April 6, 1863, when the Rev. Sill failed to be re-elected.

This action of the Trappe congregation was communicated to the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Christ Church under date of April 6, 1863, setting forth that the congregation has to-day refused to re-elect the Rev. George Sill and has elected Rev. J. Kohler, of New Holland, Lancaster county, and respectfully invited Christ Church to appoint a committee to meet the council of the Trappe Church for the purpose of consulting and adopting such measures as may be for the best interests of the several congregations comprising this charge. The action of the Trappe Church called forth a strong protest on the part of the members of Christ Church at a meeting held April 13, 1863, charging them with the responsibility of causing more frequent changes of ministers than is desirable, and declaring "that we will not now submit to a change unless re-

quired so to do by the authority having ecclesiastical jurisdiction over this charge."

The whole matter came up for consideration at the meeting of the Synod at Reading in June, 1863, and by that body was referred to the First District Conference for adjustment. The advice given by conference was deemed impracticable by the Trappe Church, and Rev. Sill having accepted a call to Whitemarsh, Montgomery county, terminated his engagement with the charge on October 1, 1863. (See history of "Old Trappe Church," page 38.)

A number of members of Christ Church now were of the opinion that it would be to the interest and well-being of the congregation to sever their connection with the Trappe charge. To do this an opportunity seemed to be afforded in the fact that the Whitemarsh congregation expressed its desire to have this church united with them into a charge. With this object in view a respectful letter was addressed to the president of Synod (the late Rev. Dr. C. W. Schaeffer), under date of October 21, 1863, in which the Church Council applies for counsel and advice in case the congregation should decide to unite with the Whitemarsh Church. The president, under date of October 23, 1863, replies at length, expressing first his high appreciation and gratification at the example they gave of respect for ecclesiastical order, then stating that this new connection, which involves a separation for the Trappe, may possibly involve separation from the Synod of Pennsylvania also. He consequently hesitates to give a definite reply, adding, however, that if they maintain their synodical relations unchanged he is clearly of the opinion that the Synod, though regretting the circumstance, would not disapprove of the change.

The congregation now made arrangements with Rev. F. Berkemeyer, pastor of the Hilltown, Leidy's Ridge road and Quakertown congregations, to preach for them on December 6. Having learned that Rev. Berkemeyer would be willing to serve the congregation in case of an election he was requested to make the following announcement to the congregation: That a congregational meeting would be held in the

church on Monday, December 21, 1863, at 1 p. m., to determine upon the expediency of disconnecting this congregation from the Trappe charge, and that at the same time an election would be held for a pastor to serve the congregation.

On the day appointed the congregation decided by a vote of 40 to 15 in favor of disconnecting from the Trappe charge, and elected the Rev. F. Berkemeyer as pastor. Rev. Berkemeyer took charge of the congregation in January, 1864, preaching his first or introductory sermon on January 30 in the English language. His salary was \$150 per year.

The services hitherto were conducted without having a musical instrument to accompany the singing. In April, 1864, it was decided that a cabinet organ should be procured for the church. Subscriptions were taken to the amount of \$136.65, after which a Mason & Hamlin organ was purchased for the sum of \$135.

On September 11, 1866, the Rev. E. S. Fleckenstein was elected to succeed Rev. Berkemeyer, who had held the pastorate until his successor should be elected and who now resigned on September 13. Rev. Fleckenstein remained in charge of the congregation until July, 1868, when he resigned.

June 27, 1868, Rev. W. B. Fox, of Sumneytown, was elected to supply the pulpit. He assumed pastoral charge on September 20, when he held his first service. He continued to supply the pulpit regularly until March 19, 1871, when he preached his last sermon.

The congregation, not being in regular connection with a charge or parish, a committee was appointed at its annual meeting on October 17, 1870, to learn whether the North Wales congregation had any desire to unite with Christ Church.

Receiving a negative reply and there being no other opportunity for parish connection at this time, arrangements were made after the resignation of Rev. Fox to have the pulpit supplied by students of the theological seminary, Philadelphia, and by others, and this arrangement continued until 1873.

At the meeting of the First District Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and ad-

jacent States, held in Philadelphia January 14, 1873, Christ Church, Towamencin, and St. Michael's Church, Sellersville, were constituted a pastoral charge. Rev. S. A. Ziegenfuss, then a theological student at the seminary on Franklin street, Philadelphia, was elected on February 17 as pastor. He accepted the call conditioned in his ordination, which followed at the meeting of the Synod in June. He began his labors on the first of April, 1873. The salary was fixed at \$500 from Towamencin, and \$400 from St. Michael's, Sellersville.

A third congregation, namely Ridge Valley, was added to the parish in the year 1874. Having received and accepted a call from Bath, Northampton county, Rev. Ziegenfuss resigned on August 12, 1876, the resignation to go into effect three months later.

On May 10, 1877, Rev. James L. Becker, the present pastor, then a theological student, was elected as successor to Rev. Ziegenfuss. The call received was formally accepted on the 20th day of June, from which time the pastorate dates.

In 1882 Trinity congregation, Lansdale, was organized and by the First District Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and adjacent States placed under the care of Revs. G. D. Foust, of North Wales, and James L. Becker, the pastor of Christ Church, thus adding a fourth preaching point to the parish with which Christ Church was now connected.

By their own action, which was ratified by Conference, Christ Church, Towamencin, and Trinity, Lansdale, were in 1888 constituted a separate parish, known as the Lansdale parish, thus dividing the former charge consisting of Towamencin, Sellersville, Ridge Valley and Lansdale, into two parishes. The pastor thereupon resigned Sellersville and Ridge Valley and retained the other two, which he served ever since.

In the regular services since the organization of Christ congregation the English and German languages have been used alternately. Services were held every four weeks until the year 1872, when on June 22 it was decided by vote to have preaching twice in four weeks instead of once, as heretofore.

This action seems to have gone into effect on the advent of Rev. S. A. Ziegenfuss in 1873.

The congregation received a gift of \$700 from Jacob Sorver in the year 1837, which by the stipulation of the donor is to be invested at the current rate of interest and the income to be used as follows: That of \$400 is to be appropriated for building and keeping in good order and repair the church or house of worship and such other buildings as are or hereafter may be connected therewith, and also the fencing around the same; that of the remaining \$300 is to be faithfully and impartially applied for and towards the relief of poor, indigent and necessitated widows, being members of the said congregation.

A bequest of \$2000 was also received on April 2, 1838, from the executors of Isaac Wampole. This legacy, by the will of the testator, is to be put out and continued on interest forever, the interest to be paid annually to the pastor as salary.

Three small tracts of land have been purchased by the congregations. The first in March, 1862, of John Drake, containing 98 perches, for \$50. The second in August, 1872, of Henry Schauermann, containing 37 44-100 perches, for \$35.10, and the third in October, 1885, of Jacob B. Moyer, containing one acre and 80 perches, for \$480.

Various efforts have been made since the year 1881 either to remodel the old church or else bring about an amicable and equitable separation of the property held in common by the two congregations, but the efforts have been fruitless.

[Read at the meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society at Christ Church, Mainland, September 16, 1899.]

SOME OLD-TIME MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL HOUSES.

By Thomas Williams, Ogontz, Pa.

There was no uncertain purpose actuating the minds and controlling the destinies of the heroic passengers who paced the deck of the good ship "Welcome" when she brought her precious burden to the shores of our own Delaware. Characterized by sublime fortitude, they were able to meet and overcome every hardship, difficulty and danger that beset them. When Penn accepted the Royal Charter for his Province he could sincerely exclaim, "God hath given it to me in the face of the world. He will bless and make it the seed of the nation"; thus making a solemn covenant with his Creator to establish a wise and beneficent government, and, as has been truly said by one of our illustrious men, a government "Whose corner-stone was civic peace, born of justice, and whose cap-stone was religious liberty, born of toleration."

There were many other shiploads coming to our shores about this period, allied and identified with Penn and his holy experiment, inspired with the same noble principles: first, implicit faith in their Creator, and, second, a zealous regard for the future welfare of their posterity. They could and did fully realize the great importance of the proper training of their children to prepare them for the duties of good citizenship. We find very early in the settlement of this vast wilderness a strong tendency to get such schools as could be obtained under the adverse conditions then existing.

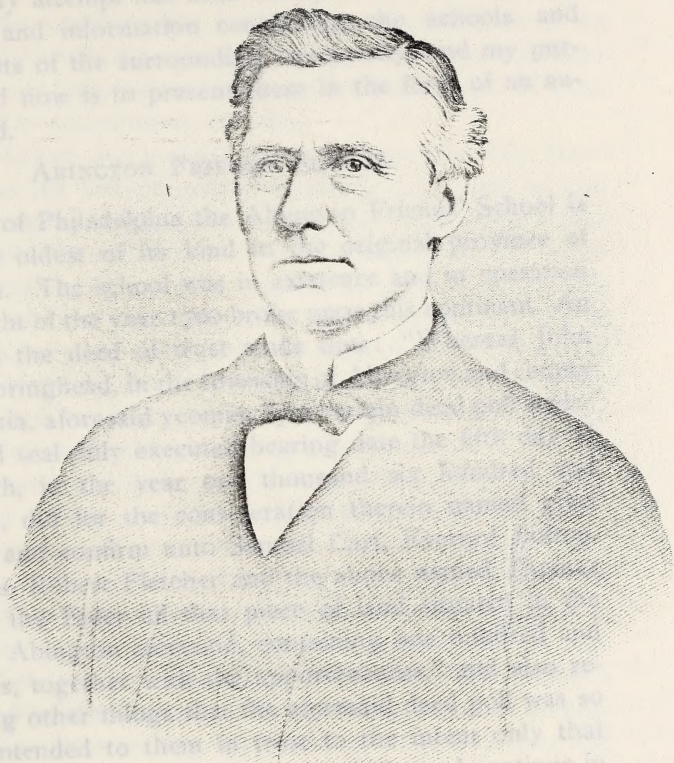
We know that right here in Cheltenham religious attendance of meeting was piously observed, and, no doubt, even if the school houses were not built and established, there was a parental training going on at many hearthstones, diffusing a healthy moral sentiment among the people. And now we are

here to-day to consider the great blessing and the grand heritage transmitted to us by our worthy predecessors.

The school history of this section of Montgomery county is a subject well worth the time and attention of a thorough-going historian, and will need the services of such an one to treat it with the consideration and address to which its merit entitles it. My attempt has been chiefly to collect some perishable facts and information relative to the schools and school interests of the surrounding country, and my purpose here and now is to present them in the form of an authentic record.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y.

Outside of Philadelphia, I think, is probably the oldest of its kind in Pennsylvania. The school was first before the light of the world, and its extract from the deed of John Barnes, of Springfield, in the year of Philadelphia, showing that it was his hand and seal, in execution of the second-month, of the year of the ninety-seven, and that the same was then grant, alien and conveyance, to Evan Morris, of the township of Abington, twenty acres, together with the following among other things, to wit: "made or intended to them or such or so many of them as should be and continue in unity and religious fellowship with Friends of Truth and remain members of the Monthly Meeting of Dublin whereunto they then did belong should stand and be seized of the said 220 acres of land for and to the use of erecting of a meeting house for Friends and to the use of the same for the use and service of the said Friends and their survivors or survivor of them by and with the advice and dis-



Thos. Williams

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The school history of this section of Montgomery county is a subject well worth the time and attention of a thorough-going historian, and will need the services of such an one to treat it with the consideration and fulness to which its merit entitles it. My attempt has been chiefly to collect some perishable facts and information concerning the schools and school interests of the surrounding community, and my purpose here and now is to present these in the form of an authentic record.

ABINGTON FRIENDS' SCHOOL.

Outside of Philadelphia the Abington Friends' School is probably the oldest of its kind in the original province of Pennsylvania. The school was in existence and in operation before the light of the year 1700 broke upon this continent. An extract from the deed of trust reads thus: "Whereas John Barnes, of Springhead, in the township of Abington and county of Philadelphia, aforesaid yeoman by a certain deed poll under his hand and seal duly executed bearing date the fifth day of second-month, in the year one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, did for the consideration therein named give, grant, alien and confirm unto Samuel Cart, Everard Bolton, Evan Morris, Robert Fletcher and the above named Thomas Camby and the Elder all that piece of land situated in the township of Abington aforesaid, containing one hundred and twenty acres, together with the appurtenances," and also reciting among other things that the aforesaid deed poll was so "made or intended to them in trust to the intent only that they or such or so many of them as should be and continue in unity and religious fellowship with Friends of Truth and remain members of the Monthly Meeting of Dublin whereunto they then did belong should stand and be seized of the said 120 acres of land for and toward the erecting of a meeting house for Friends and towards the maintenance of a school for the use and service of such as they, the aforesaid trustees and the survivors or survivor of them by and with the advice and di-

rection of Friends belonging or to belong to the said Monthly Meeting should in their said meeting from time to time see, cause to order and direct."

From this foundation the school sprang, and for many years was the school for this entire section of the county, where the youth of the day must get whatever school training he wanted. The tablet on the present school building bears the date 1784, but there is no doubt that there was a school building on the site long before. The school maintained its character as a day school down to 1884.

A committee was appointed at Abington Monthly Meeting, held on the fifth-month twenty-ninth day, 1882, to take into consideration the propriety of building a boarding school on these grounds and also to confer with a Quarterly Meeting Committee on the subject. At the Monthly Meeting, held the 8th-month 31st day, 1885, the school committee offered the following report, which was satisfactory to the Meeting: Abington Friends' School Committee met with the Boarding Committee and was informed by them of their decision to proceed with the erection of a boarding and day school.

At a session of Abington Monthly Meeting of Friends, by men and women conjointly, the 3d-month 29th day, 1886, this meeting was called at the request of the Building Committee to hear the report of their progress. It was stated that they had all the plans and specifications for the building of the proposed school which they believed suitable for the purpose, and were ready to enter into contract with the builder if so instructed by the Meeting. The Meeting united in authorizing the committee to sign the contract. The boarding and day school building was completed and finished during the 12th-month, 1887.

It is well known that there have been many who have received the principal part of their education at this school. Among its teachers who achieved noteworthy reputations were Benjamin and Mary Hallowell. Benjamin Hallowell taught the celebrated school at Alexandria, Va., then District of Columbia, than which there was no more celebrated school in its day; Mary Hallowell, later the wife of Isaac Lippincott,

became a noted preacher among Friends. Edward H. Magill, late President of Swarthmore College, once taught at this school.

RUBICAM SCHOOL.

If we were this morning to visit the first spot where stood a school house in which Cheltenham had a rightful interest, so far as we to-day can learn, we would have to leave the township and even the county and go into Philadelphia. Situated about the intersection of Thuron and Sharpnack streets on the present plan of Philadelphia, about three hundred yards east from the front gate of Ivy Hill Cemetery, there is a depression in the ground which together with the faded title papers is all that is left to show that such a school ever existed.

Starting before the Revolutionary War, it continued down almost to the present century. By an indenture made the fourteenth day of September, 1748, Justice William Rubicam and Susanna his wife granted and confirmed "Unto Anthony Williams, John Cleaver, Ezekiel Potts, and Isaac Cleaver a lot or piece of land containing a quarter of an acre for the benefit, use, and behoof of the inhabitants of the townships of Bristol and Cheltenham, and for the townships of Germantown and Springfield, and for a place to build and erect a school house and other conveniences thereon, for a school master to learn, teach, and instruct children there in English, reading, writing, arithmetic, and so forth, and for the use and service of the said townships." A second deed of trust was made on the fourth day of the fifth-month, 1790, by Anthony Williams, Sr., and Isaac Cleaver, sole surviving trustees, to Anthony Williams, Jr., of Cheltenham township, and George Williams, Henry Childs, John Unrue, Absalom Michener and Jesse Kirk, of Bristol township. The school was originally built and supported by voluntary contributions from the surrounding residents. According to tradition, this property was used for school purposes until the Williams school, which will be noticed later, was erected in 1795-6. Because the latter was more commodious and more eligibly located it came into general use, and the modest little Rubicam school, for it had been

only about 14x18 feet with a door and six windows, was first abandoned and then neglected, till all the woodwork went to decay, leaving only the entirely good stone walls standing as perfect as when built fifty years previous, an enduring monument to the honest mason who laid the stones in their bed of mortar, and for which he fully deserves our grateful recollection.

These walls stood the test of exposure to the weather until about 1885, sheltering and enclosing within with their old-time security two grand specimens of our native trees,—a cherry and a cedar. In a comparatively few years these trees had attained a stately size, towering to twice the height of the walls, through whose roofless nakedness they towered upward. Their quick growth was due to the fact that they had taken root on the hearth of the old Rubicam school and were feeding upon the ashes of numberless white oak and hickory logs that had warmed and smoked the embryonic Revolutionary heroes. About fifteen years ago walls and trees were attacked by some unprincipled creatures actuated by a spirit of vandalism, who wantonly laid the spot waste and carried off whatever was of value,—a proceeding which deserves more than mere regret and condemnation could its perpetrator be discovered. The depression in the ground already mentioned and the faded deeds of trust on their imperishable parchment scrolls are to-day all that we have to confirm the story.

HICKS SCHOOL.

"Hicks" school stood on the lot on old Mermaid road at the intersection of township line between Springfield and Cheltenham townships opposite the residence of the late John Houston. It had its name traditionally from Polly Hicks, who owned large tracts of ground adjoining and lived in the house that afterward was owned and occupied by the John Houston already mentioned.

In the deed of trust for this school it is recited that "Whereas Andrew Redheifer and Ann his wife by their indenture dated the thirteenth day of October, 1783, did grant and confirm a certain lot or piece of land in said township of

Springfield containing forty-five perches to Isaiah Hubs and John Slingluff for the use of the neighborhood in general for an English Protestant school or church as they shall from time to time think fit and for no other use or uses whatsoever."

A log school house was erected soon after the conveyance of the lot, which must have been managed satisfactorily by the trustees appointed for the purpose. In the year 1832 the school was rebuilt by contributions from citizens of the neighborhood, residents of Springfield and Cheltenham townships. In that year and yearly thereafter the neighbors proceeded to elect six persons as trustees for the school, the trustees named in the deed of trust having been deceased long before that year. These annual elections were held on the first Monday of December. At the election of 1852 Charles P. Fenton, John Funk, Alexander Ottinger, Joseph Yeakle, Daniel Fisher and Samuel Selser were elected trustees of the school; doubts having arisen as to the validity of their election, a petition was addressed to the Court at Norristown praying for the appointment of trustees in the places of the original trustees as named in the deed of trust. The Court at once appointed the men elected at the preceding annual election as already named.

In 1867 a further petition was presented to the Court setting forth that since the appointment of trustees was made, the erection of schools under the Common School system of this Commonwealth in the townships of Springfield and Cheltenham has superseded the necessity for the said Protestant school: that no contribution for its support had been made for the last seven years, and that the school had for that time been abandoned and given up. The petition prayed the Court for an order to make sale of the school house and lot; it was granted, the Court appointing Charles P. Fenton, John Funk, and Joseph Yeakle trustees to sell the property and make report to the Court. The report of the trustees was presented to Court on August 20, 1868. At public sale they had sold the house and lot for three hundred dollars to John Houston. The foregoing facts are gleaned from the deed which the last

set of trustees gave to John Houston, the purchaser of the school lot. The furniture of the school was sold for \$7.99. Cheltenham received half of the proceeds of the sale. The books of the Treasurer of Cheltenham for 1869 note the receipt from Jesse H. Geary, Prothonotary, of the sum of \$86.26 as Cheltenham's half of the net proceeds.

THE WILLIAMS SCHOOL.

The next school in point of establishment was known as the "Williams School," and is still standing. It is situated on the south side of County Line road east of Limekiln turnpike. In the will of Anthony Williams, dated the 31st of 7th-month, 1793, and probated on the 27th of the Eighth-month, same year, he "Bequeathed unto Benjamin Mather, Henry Childs, Jr., Absalom Michener and Benjamin Shoemaker, Jr., one small lot of land, part of the plantation whereon I now dwell, to be taken off the southeast corner, containing one acre of land. . . . Nevertheless in trust only for them to convey to such trustees as the Preparative Meeting of the people called Quakers held in Abington shall appoint for that purpose; the said to be made use of for erecting a school-house and the supporting a school to be kept under the direction of the Preparative Meeting aforesaid forever. I also give the sum of ten pounds toward building a house for to accommodate a school on said lot. I further give toward the support of said school the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid by my executors into the hands of such trustees as the aforesaid Meeting shall appoint to have the care of it, which shall be by them kept out on interest on good security forever, and the interest arising thereon to go to the schooling of the inhabitants in general within one mile and a quarter of the above school. And my will further is that if the aforesaid Meeting shall neglect or refuse to build a commodious school-house on said lot not less than thirty-three feet long and twenty feet wide for the space of two years from the date hereof, that then this paragraph respecting the lot and school shall be void."

This school was built in accordance with the wishes of the will, and the school and property belonging thereto were in the

care of trustees appointed by Abington until about the time of the adoption of the common-school law by the district of Cheltenham in 1838. Gradually from this time, owing to the complicated conditions existing, the trustees relinquished the care of management of the school, but always looked after the property and used the income to keep the property in good repair.

Soon after the common school law was adopted the school was run on a partnership plan by the directors of Cheltenham and the directors of the old Bristol township, which was merged into the Twenty-second ward, Philadelphia, in 1854; each district paying half of the expense of maintenance. It was managed in this way until June, 1873, at which time the two interested districts being otherwise provided with school houses within the respective districts, withdrew their support. The building was then turned into a dwelling house, and has been in use as such since. The fund has materially increased from the accretions of interest and rents since the school was discontinued.

(A second deed of trust was made by Benjamin Mather and Henry Childs, the two surviving trustees, and under it, on the twenty-fifth day of the First-month, 1801, the Preparative Meeting appointed Anthony Williams, 2d, Edward Edwards, Levi Tyson, Thomas Mather, Oliver Wilson and Isaac Michener new trustees. The third deed of trust was made, according to the appointment of the Preparative Meeting, January 18, 1847, by Isaac Michener, sole surviving trustee, to George C. Williams, Robert F. Williams, Charles Michener, Thomas T. Mather and Penrose Mather. Then again on the 14th of May, 1881, it was reconveyed by George C. Williams and Penrose Mather, surviving trustees, to Thomas Williams, Isaac P. Mather, Charles Michener and Samuel J. Pickering, of whom all but the last named are still living).

GEORGE K. HELLER.

In 1796 a deed of trust was executed by Samuel Miles and his wife Katherine for 58 perches of land; by Frederick Altman and his wife Mary for 48 perches of land; and by Benjamin Rowland and his wife Mary for 14 perches of land. On

these three adjoining pieces of ground, making altogether 120 perches, located in what was once Milltown, a school-house was erected in 1795. The trustees named in the deed are Thomas Fletcher, Caleb Hallowell, John Thomson, John Jones, Amos Jones, and William Bailey. One condition of trust was that such persons as contributed thirty shillings should be privileged to send children to school.

Miss Carrie V. Speck, who has taught at this school continuously since 1876, and who read a paper at the centennial anniversary of the building, in that paper says, in part: "Previous to 1842 this building, called Milltown School-House, was the only public school in Cheltenham township. Children who could not attend this school were allowed to go over the line to neighboring townships. The building was of rough stone and contained one room, in which was a desk for the teacher and long desks and benches for the pupils. There was an open fire place in one end of the room, and it is said the schoolmaster lived in one end of the building and taught school in the other."

In 1836, at a meeting or election of the inhabitants of Cheltenham, John J. Williams, Thomas Rowland, Jacob Myers, George K. Heller, Samuel Fenton and Comly Shoemaker were constituted a board of directors. At a later meeting it was decided to take no action on the school question until the next township election in 1837. In that year a vote was taken on the question of adopting the Common School system, but it was lost, there being 12 votes for schools and 34 votes for "no schools." In 1838 another vote was taken and was carried by 16 majority, there being 56 votes for schools and 40 for "no schools." These figures are taken from the old township record kept for more than 150 years, and for many years past in charge of Joseph Bosler, of Ogontz, or some of his ancestors. The minute recording this vote is in the handwriting of George K. Heller, and it is to his careful work that we are to-day indebted for this knowledge. Thus the system was adopted. The first Board of Directors consisted of Joel K. Mann, President; George K. Heller, Secretary; John J. Williams, Treasurer; Thomas Rowland, Bartholomew Mather and William

Gillingham. Although the new law made the schools public, patrons were still obliged to pay one-half the tuition and purchase the books used by their children.

On June 7, 1876, a resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of Cheltenham complimentary to George K. Heller for his long and faithful service as school director—a period of thirty-five years—most of which he served as Secretary of the Board with but little compensation. Respected by all and loved by most of his neighbors, they felt it a deserved tribute to name the old Milltown school-house the George K. Heller school as a lasting memorial and testimonial to his distinguished services.

There were two small pieces of land purchased later, one from the Waln's estate and one from Rowland Bros., making an acre of land now belonging to the school property. There have been additions made to the building at different times until now it contains five commodious rooms, situated on a splendid lot, which taken altogether is not exceeded by any school property in the district for convenience or eligibility.

The George K. Heller school, under its present efficient principal, Miss Carrie V. Speck, was the first in this vicinity to introduce the School Savings system, and according to J. H. Thiry's report, compiled January 1, 1900, this school was the tenth on the list, coming next to Norristown. The credit for this enterprise and addition to the useful functions of our schools is distinctly due Miss Speck; here pioneer work in her own school demonstrated the value of the system, and the success which she achieved with it led to its gradual adoption over the entire district. Up to January 1, 1899, the pupils of the George K. Heller school had deposited \$3,631.98, of which there was still remaining in bank to the credit of depositors \$1,627.56. The system is in successful operation in every school in the district now, almost fifty per cent. of its enrolled pupils being depositors.

MIDDLE SCHOOL.

In 1842 a one-roomed building was erected on Mill road, near Myers and Ervien's Fork Factory, on a lot obtained from

Daniel Rorer and Sarah his wife by indenture dated the 22d day of August, 1842, to Directors John J. Williams, George K. Heller, Joel K. Mann, Daniel Rorer, Thomas Rowland and James Harmer. The land was a gift from Daniel Rorer and wife to be used exclusively for school purposes.

When it was thought to be advisable to remove the school conducted in this building and to locate it nearer to Shoemakertown, where there had meantime been a relatively great increase of population, the School Board, on trying to dispose of the "Middle School" lot, found that owing to the restrictions in the deed it was necessary to have Daniel Rorer and wife join in the deed to the purchasers. This consent was secured and the lot sold in 1860, Mr. Rorer receiving half of the purchase money, which was \$200. The house was afterward changed to a dwelling, and as such it still stands; it now belongs to the Benj. R. Myers estate.

SHOEMAKER SCHOOL.

The first school at what was Shoemakertown, now Ogontz, is still standing, and is at present occupied by Mr. M. P. Horner as his residence. The lot on which it stands was deeded to Thomas Rowland, Thomas Williams, Charles Bolton, Wm. B. Birchall, Benj. R. Myers and John A. Ervien as the School Board by Henry P. Birchall, William B. B. Birchall and his wife, on November 14, 1859.

The lot has an area of an acre, but includes a public road and Tacony creek, which reduces its size very materially. It was purchased at the time because no one else in the vicinity would sell any ground; the school-house stood on the only portion of the lot which was not subject to inundation; the play ground was wet and damp, often flooded, and very unhealthy. A school-room was maintained in the building, however, until 1890, in the fall of which year the present Shoemaker school at its present location was opened. The first lot and house were sold on July 31, 1893, to the present occupant.

The name was originally "Shoemakertown School," after the village near which it stood, and the village had its name from the Shoemaker family which lived in and near the village

and owned much of the land in the vicinity. Later the school has been known as the "Shoemaker" in more distinct acknowledgment of the Shoemaker family name and school interest, as particularly manifested by Robert Shoemaker, a highly efficient member of the Board of Directors for ten years, and who died in 1876.

AUDENRIED SCHOOL.

Soon after the adoption of the Common School system in Cheltenham, it became necessary to establish a school more centrally located than were any then in existence. A lot on Church road, west of Mill road, was secured from the James Harmer estate, and a one-room house was built. This was known as the Harmer Hill School. It was an elegant location as far as elevation and scenery were concerned, but, owing to small population, it was deemed expedient to remove the school about one-half mile farther west on Church road, and the school was then located on the spot where it still stands, about 100 yards west of the intersection of Church road and Limekiln turnpike. A lot of one-half acre was secured from Dr. Charles Bolton on February 3, 1853, for twenty-five dollars. A house of one room costing six hundred dollars was built upon it. About 1871 an addition was built costing \$2000, and a second addition in 1878. The bell in the tower has the name of "Audenried" cast upon it; at the dedication of this new building, William Audenried suggested the name of "Audenried" for the school. Since that time the community has been wondering about the propriety of the change of name, perplexed whether "Audenried" is any better than "Harmer Hill," an old-time honored name of a family whose descendants for several generations have lived in the vicinity of the school.

The last addition to the Audenried school was built in 1878, and cost three thousand nine hundred fifty-eight dollars and ninety-eight cents (\$3958.98). Some years previous to the time of this last addition, a very fine toned bell was purchased by private subscription of the people in the neighbor-

hood at a cost of seventy (\$70) dollars from E. A. & G. K. Meneely, of Troy, New York. This Meneely bell was taken to Edge Hill school soon after that school was built in 1890. There it now hangs in the cupola, greeting its generous donors, and calling the boys and girls to their daily tasks on the Pleasant Hill.

LAMOTT SCHOOL.

During the civil war of 1861-5 the government established a recruiting station and encampment on Cook's Hill, Washington lane and Church road. In the course of time this camp was transferred to what was later known as Camptown. Several regiments of colored soldiers were recruited under the successful management of General Louis Wagner, who was in command at both stations.

Edward M. Davis, Sr., owned the land where the last encampment was located. Edward, with characteristic fertility and enterprise, conceived the scheme of starting a town; he had the tract laid out in town lots and put them up for sale. To encourage purchasers, he offered as an extra incentive to guarantee to establish and maintain a school in town for the accommodation of the children. He fulfilled his agreement with the lot holders and built a frame school-house with two rooms on the lower side of a thoroughfare now known as School street.

In describing it afterward to the school directors he said it looked like a "little Quaker Meeting House." In this building he maintained a school for a while. But Camptown rapidly increased in population, and it became incumbent on the directors of the district to support a school at that place.

The number of pupils enrolled was about thirty. The directors rented the building for some time, but finally bought it, August 30, 1870. Soon this building and ground became entirely inadequate to accommodate the largely increased number of pupils attending the school.

Seven years after the purchase of the "Quaker" looking school, a fine lot of one and one-half acres was secured by the school board at the corner of Willow and Sycamore avenues, August 7, 1877.

This is the finest and most eligible school lot in the township. It cost \$1000. On this lot one room was built at first.

Additions have been made to the building at different times to accommodate the increased attendance, until now by the addition of two new rooms during this summer there are five large, comfortable, well lighted rooms, besides an annex capable of seating about thirty pupils.

In the points of location, arrangement and equipment it is one of the finest properties which Cheltenham owns to-day.

ASHBOURNE SCHOOL.

In 1873 two lots were purchased in Ashbourne for the school district, one from J. Hamilton McDonald for \$359, and one from Mathias Shoemaker for \$550. Title to the lots was passed to the Board on August 6, 1873. The Directors at once proceeded to erect a one-story brick building on the upper side of the lot, so placed as to admit of the building of an addition if ever it should become necessary. This plan was suggested by Robert B. Haines, who was one of the members of the Board. John Summerfield was given the contract to build the house, with a hood over the door, for \$1965. He was urged to have the building finished before cold weather.

CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL.

The Cheltenham High School was opened in the Ashbourne building in 1885. The directors at the time were Benjamin R. Myers, President; William H. Myers, Secretary; Robert Shoemaker, George D. Heist, Isaiah Drain. The first principal of the school was George W. Flounders. The course then covered but one year's work. In 1887 the course was lengthened to two years, and in 1895 to a full three years' course, thus giving the pupils the opportunity to prepare for college within the public schools. During the present year (1900) the course has again been extended, not in point of years added, but by giving the pupils of the school a wider choice of studies whereby they may fit themselves for various vocations.

For the establishment of this High School the chief credit

is due to Mr. G. W. Flounders, of Ashbourne, then principal of the schools, and to directors Benjamin R. Myers and Robert Shoemaker. It was by the active and influential work of these three gentlemen that a sentiment favorable to such a venture was created, and to them and their memories the lasting gratitude of the beneficiaries of the school are due.

EDGE HILL SCHOOL.

Edge Hill School, built in 1890, is most eligibly situated on Monties Hill, fronting on Limekiln turnpike, overlooking a charming scenery in both Cheltenham and Abington townships. The section where it is located is noted especially for its rapid increase in population by reason of local improvements; indeed the increase is beyond the most sanguine expectations of those who are "to the manor born."

The lot was purchased of Mr. George D. Heist and contains one acre. It was formerly part of the Monties estate, belonging to a very respectable family of colored people who lived on the property in successive generations for nearly a century, and still hold a trust in a piece of ground adjoining the school lot, which was dedicated by some of their ancestors as a place of burial more than a hundred years ago.

When the Directors first proposed to build the school house at Edge Hill it was thought a two-roomed building would furnish all the accommodation necessary for that neighborhood, but just about the time the contract was being offered it was decided to erect a house with three rooms, such as was at "Shoemaker." This was a wise decision on the part of the School Board, as the conditions existing there have shown the great importance of providing ample school accommodations to meet the needs of a progressive and enterprising community. A handsome addition was made to the house this last vacation, making the building with four large rooms, which are now comfortably filled with pupils, intently enthusiastic in their work and making good progress.

WYNCOTE SCHOOL.

Wyncote School, situated on the southeast side of Greenwood avenue, near the approach to Wyncote lane, about four hundred yards east of Jenkintown station, was built in 1895; it is a two-storied building with three large rooms for schools, a room for a library, with a hall and stairway on the first floor; on the second floor there is room for equal accommodations.

On account of not being able to get a lot with more width, the house had to be built diagonally with the road on which it fronts,—a thing very much regretted by the Directors at the time of purchasing the lot. The Directors should have resorted to judicial proceedings and gotten what they wanted.

The house has ample accommodations to serve the needs of that neighborhood for perhaps a generation. The school is conducted like all others in the district, with special regard to the moral as well as intellectual training of the pupils, modestly, quietly, but forcibly appealing to the confidence and support of the patrons and tax-payers.

CHELTENHAM MILITARY ACADEMY.

This institution was founded in 1871 by the late Rev. Samuel Clements, D. D. Regarding Dr. Clements and the founding of Cheltenham, Dr. Appleton, the venerable rector of St. Paul's Church, Cheltenham, wrote some years since:

"I went to him in the winter of 1871 with the proposal that he should inaugurate this important enterprise. He took the matter into grave and thoughtful consideration. Shortly after I met him by appointment at the residence of Jay Cooke, Esq., and the subject was fully discussed. To Mr. Cooke is due the honor and privilege of having granted to this untried experiment a cordial and hearty support. To him, more than to anyone else, should be accorded the credit of having given to the inception of this noble institution a gracious and kindly stimulus. Others in the vicinity, notably Mr. Robert Shoemaker, encouraged its formation and development."

It will thus be seen that the Academy is essentially an institution which should interest all those living in this imme-

diate neighborhood. While its work and reputation are national, its foundation is largely a work of those who lived and are still living in this immediate vicinity.

Dr. Clements opened the Academy in the old ante-Revolutionary house named "Ivy Green," which still stands in the village of Ogontz. Such was the success of the school that Dr. Clements, seeking more commodious accommodations, purchased "Norwood," which was for many years the home of the late Mr. John Butler.

In this new location Dr. Clements continued the school until his death, which occurred on the 12th of December, 1888. The venerable principal left a memory which is fondly cherished by the graduates who went forth from Cheltenham during the time that he was at its head. It is the memory of an honest man, a faithful teacher, a devout minister, and life-long friend of youth.

Shortly after the death of Dr. Clements the Academy was purchased by Mr. John C. Rice, A. M., who was at that time the principal of Glenwood Institute, at Matawan, New Jersey. Soon after his becoming principal of Cheltenham the degree of Ph. D. was conferred upon Mr. Rice by the Western University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Rice assumed charge of the school with the session opening in September, 1889, and remained principal up to the time of his death, on January 24th, 1899.

Dr. Rice not only continued the traditions of Cheltenham, but he also devoted his life and energies to the maintenance and upbuilding of the school. With unceasing care he labored to make Cheltenham a school unsurpassed for the proper training of boys. While he was principal of the Academy many improvements for the pleasure and benefit of the cadets were introduced, and the general character of the Academy from a scholastic standpoint was maintained at the highest standard.

The corps of instructors was increased by Dr. Rice, and the selection of teachers was a matter to which he always gave the most painstaking care.

During his administration the gymnasium and Norwood

Hall were built; extensive additions were made to the dormitories and the athletic field was graded.

He died as he lived, honored and respected by all who knew him, a kind husband and father, a manly man among men, a true friend to men, young and old, a worthy guide to all with whom he came in contact.

His widow, Mrs. Marion L. C. Rice, still continues her interest in the school, and it stands as a worthy memorial to her husband and to his work.

On the first of May, 1899, the Rev. John D. Skilton, A. M., became principal of Cheltenham. He brought to his work an intimate acquaintance with Dr. Rice, and a full understanding of his plans and purposes for Cheltenham.

The Academy has just opened for its thirtieth year, and looks forward with bright hope to the future. The determination of the present administration of Cheltenham is to use every endeavor that the school shall be maintained at the front rank of preparatory schools.

OGONTZ SEMINARY.

Ogontz Seminary was established in 1850 at 1615 Chestnut street by Miss Mary E. Bonney and Miss Harriet E. Dillaye. The school continued in Philadelphia until 1883, when, on the invitation of Mr. Jay Cooke, it was removed to Ogontz. Miss Bonney and Miss Dillaye associated with them two assistant teachers, Miss Frances E. Bennett and Miss Sylvia J. Eastman, who soon took the burden of the school on their shoulders, while the former teachers became principals emeritæ. Shortly Miss Bonney retired. She died last summer. Miss Dillaye died at Ogontz several years ago. Miss Bennett's failing health caused her to retire last year. The school is now under Miss Eastman's care, and has enrolled 90 boarders and 36 day pupils. Miss Mary Lyon, the pioneer for higher education of women, established a school in Troy, N. Y., which Miss Bonney and Miss Dillaye attended. The same idea was carried out in the Chestnut Street School, and Ogontz is under the same principalship. Established before Wellesley

or Vassar were thought of, Ogontz is well known and well sustained.

(Comment by Thomas Williams).

This institution, just past its half-century mark, is fully maintained up to the high standard of excellence, with the same exalted ideas, with a full corps of competent and experienced teachers, that has achieved its remarkable progress for the last fifty years. Miss Sylvia J. Eastman, the present efficient head of the school, has recently, by a judicious and liberal expenditure, elegantly refurnished the building, making it complete in all of its appointments.

All connected with the institution are to be congratulated for the auspicious prospects in view of its grand success. It is entitled to the full confidence of its patrons. It is not excelled by any institution of its kind in these parts.

THE SCHOOL AT CHELTEN HILLS.

The Cheltenham Hills School, on Mather avenue, near the Cheltenham Hills station, was the outgrowth of a love for teaching on the part of its originators, and the desire to have a good school in that section.

The nearest schools available were at Shoemakertown (Ogontz) and Harmer Hill, as Jenkintown was out of the township. Abington was then a time-honored but small school, and was too far away for little children to walk to it. Ogontz had not begun its career in the Cooke mansion.

For ten years the school was held in the residence of Joseph Heacock, but in 1892 the present building was erected. Mrs. E. W. Heacock and Miss Annie Heacock were the principals until the summer of 1892, when the former felt that other duties required her attention, and Miss Lida R. LeMaistre became associate principal with Miss Heacock. The school is thoroughly graded with nine classes. There are seven teachers present all the time, and French, music, drawing, elocution and physical culture are taught by teachers who come several times in the week.

It has sent out 66 graduates. Six of its boys entered the University of Pennsylvania. A girl of the class of '96 was

graduated as salutatorian at Wilson College last June, and five other girls are pursuing college courses at present.

Surrounded by a growing and thoroughly intelligent population, it is probable the school will be a power of usefulness for many years, if carried on with the care that its owners hope to have given either by themselves or competent successors.

CONCLUSION.

In the entire State of Pennsylvania we feel sure there is not another piece of territory of equal area with that including the sites of the schools mentioned in this paper,—a territory of not over ten square miles,—which has had and has now the educational facilities of this section of the county. Including the borough of Jenkintown, there are now in successful operation on these ten square miles of territory thirty public lower grade schools, two public High Schools, one parochial school, two college preparatory schools, one military academy, which also prepares for college, and a young ladies' seminary; there are really more schools in the territory, but this enumeration is sufficient to establish the claim we have made. This is truly a good showing for this end of the county, and we hope that a knowledge of these facts may awaken a proper pride and desire in the people to hold fast the place of pre-eminence to which they have attained, and dispose them to endorse heartily all measures of school advancement and betterment which may from time to time be proposed.

[Read before the Montgomery County Historical Society, at Ashbourne, Pa.,
October 6, 1900.]

CAMP TOWAMENSING.

By Hon. B. Witman Dambly.

The encampment of Washington's army in this immediate vicinity of Towamensing was about the sixth in the order of their occurrence in Montgomery county, within whose present limits the Father of His Country and his troops spent five days less than nine months.

Rested and refreshed for several days at Pennypacker's Mills, Schwenksville, whence the main body of the army retreated after the disastrous battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, they marched Wednesday, October 8, by way of the Skip-pack road and the Forty-foot road from Schwenksville to the Mennonite meeting-house in Towamensing. So says Baker's Itinerary of General Washington, undisputed authority.

Here the Mennonite meeting-house referred to had been converted into a hospital for soldiers wounded in the engagement at Germantown, in which the Americans lost 200, 600 were wounded and 400 were taken prisoners.

As the army retreated up the Skippack road, the main body going to Pennypacker's Mills, pursued as far as Blue Bell by the English cavalry, the wounded were taken into private houses on and off the road and into churches to be cared for. Thus it was that the Towamensing Mennonite meeting-house had its quota of wounded soldiers.

The wounded officers were brought to the farm house of Adam Gotwals, on the Forty-foot road, now the property of Benjamin W. Markley, about one and one-quarter miles southwest of the Mennonite meeting-house. The officers were General Francis Nash, of North Carolina; Colonel Boyd, Major John White, of Philadelphia, and Lieutenant Matthew Smith, of Virginia.

Nash was wounded in the thigh by a cannon ball, which

killed his horse and his aid, Major Witherspoon. General Nash was carried to the Gotwals house (now Markley's) on a litter or bed of poles. Bean's history of Montgomery county says "this we know from an eye witness."

Concerning Colonel Boyd the several authorities consulted contain nothing.

White was an aid to General Sullivan. Concerning White's death authorities differ. Watson's Annals (page 60) says: "He had gone on after the battle wounded, but riding on his own horse. He had reached the house of Abram Wentz, on Skippack road, where he had before quartered. As the alarm of the pursuing army came onward he undertook to ride six miles further, when he took a fever from his exertions, from which he died. A lady who saw him at Wentz's house, and who is still alive, has told me he came there with General Furman, and that the Major was gay and cheerful, and declined any bed or assistance."

Bean's history of Montgomery county says: "White was shot dead by a British soldier from a cellar window in the attempt to fire Chew's house."

Of Smith, Watson's Annals (page 60) says: "In the same company (meaning with White and General Furman at Wentz's house) there was a very young officer from Virginia, supposed to be Lieutenant Smith, wounded in the shoulder, who also went onward."

Bean's history says of Smith that he was killed by a ball within musket-shot of the building in the hazardous effort to carry a flag to demand formal and immediate surrender.

These officers were among the dead and wounded brought to this township after the battle. Of this we are certain. Right here it might be stated that the late Jacob Johnson and Wm. Johnson, who died in Skippack in 1893 and 1897 respectively, aged 84 and 87 years respectively, frequently related that their grandparents, Joseph Johnson and wife, who lived on the farm now occupied by Jacob R. Landis, at the mouth of the Skippack and Towamensing creeks, on the line of Towamensing township, heard the groans of the wounded soldiers on their way to Towamensing after the battle of Germantown. It

is further related that the Johnson family carried water to the Skippack road for the soldiers, presumably the wounded.

Mention has been made at this point of the death of General Nash and the other officers for the reason that Washington may have, and most likely did, come here on October 8 from Pennypacker's Mills for the purpose of attending the funeral the following day, Thursday, October 9. Under that date in Baker's Itinerary (page 97) appears the following interesting order:

"At Towamencin: Orderly Book.—Brigadier General Nash will be interred at 10 o'clock in the forenoon with military honors, at the place where the road where the troops marched on yesterday (meaning the Forty-foot road) comes into the great road (meaning the present Springhouse and Summeytown turnpike). All officers, whose circumstances will admit of it, will attend and pay this respect to a brave man, who died in defense of his country."

For six or seven days the army was encamped here, according to Baker's Itinerary (page 98). Washington's quarters were at the farm house of Frederick Wampole, about one-fourth of a mile northeast of Christ Church, and not far from the Skippack creek. Watson relates in his annals (page 60) that the Wampole family had known that Washington was in the practice of retiring to pray.

In 1881 the old house was torn down by Jacob K. Detwiler, who owned and occupied the farm up to about 1900. It is now occupied by his son, Abram L. Detwiler.

Heckler's history of Lower Salford (page 381) says that to the west of the headquarters, in Salford township, where Stauffers lived, numerous officers had their boarding place.

The camp-ground proper comprises more than simply the one field near the Detwiler residence, which field is known as the camp-ground. The latter was much larger than the single field. The camp extended from Towamensing into Lower Salford, occupying fields (according to Heckler's history) on the farms of Jacob Bossert and his neighbor, Mr. Getz, northwest of the Skippack creek. This seems evident from the fact that parents related the story to their children and because bullets

and other parts of army equipment were plowed up in the fields, having either been dropped or left lying on the ground.

During the encampment here John Farndon, a private in Colonel Hartley's Regiment, was hanged for desertion. While accounts of local historians differ as to some of the events prior to his execution, all sources of information are unanimous as to the time, viz, October 9, after the funeral of General Nash and the other officers, to which ceremony recurrence will again be made.

The exact spot where the execution of Farndon took place, it is reasonably certain, was on the farm of Jacob Bossert, now owned by Joel Cassel, on the Lower Salford line, about a quarter of a mile north of this church. It might be stated, however, that Baker's Itinerary contains nothing about the Farndon execution, nor about the court of inquiry * held here respecting the conduct of General Wayne at Paoli, which seems in order now.

Some time before a detachment of American troops encamped at Paoli, under command of General Wayne, had been surprised and massacred by the British. The charge was made that Wayne was negligent and that due vigilance on his part would have prevented the slaughter. A court of inquiry was held here, presided over by Lord Sterling, and Wayne was acquitted.

The encampment here occupied about 300 acres, then, as now, the property of different owners. The northern section was on Frederick Wampole's farm (where was headquarters); the western section on land of Jacob Bossert, now Chas. Z.

*The Valley Forge Orderly Book of General George Weedon, published in 1902, states that on September 26, 1777, General Washington approved the finding of the court martial sentencing John Farndon to death for "Deserting to the Enemy and Inlisting with them." On October 8th Farndon was ordered "to be executed to-morrow at 12 o'clock." On October 9th it was ordered that "Brigadier General Nash will be interred at 10 o'clock this forenoon with military honours"; also, that "The execution of John Farndon is postponed till to-morrow at noon."

The same Orderly Book states: "H^d Quarters, Towamensing, 11th Oct., 1777. The Court of enquiry, of which Lord Stirling is president, now sitting at the President's quarters, is to enquire into the conduct of Brigadier General Wayne, viz., that he had timely notice of the enemy's intentions to attack the Troops under his Command on the night of the 20th ult.," etc.

Wambold's farm, and the most southerly section was on Benj. Fuller's, now Henry S. Kriebel's, farm. One flank rested on the present turnpike, called in Washington's order of the 9th "the great road." The site of the present church was on the edge of the encampment, so that in a two-fold sense we are to-day on sacred ground.

As part of the history of the decampment of 1777, an old document, in possession of the late Jacob H. Cassel, is of interest. This is a certificate for damages, dated 1777, for 696 fence rails destroyed by Washington's army. This document, yet in good condition, reads as follows:

Estimate of damages on the plantation of Henry Cassel by the army under the command of His Excellency, George Washington, between the 7th and 16th.

696 fence rails.....£8.14.0.

We, whose names are undersigned, at the request of Henry Cassel, have taken a strict and careful survey of the damage done to his plantation, and to the best of our knowledge and judgment believe the same to amount to eight pounds and fourteen shillings, current money of Pennsylvania, and we are ready to qualify when called upon.

Given under our hands and seal on said plantation in Towamensing township, this 23d of October, 1777.

Frederick Wampole,
Nicholas Schwenk,
John Lukens.

This old document indicates that the army was here nine days, between the 7th and 16th of October, whereas Baker's Itinerary (page 98) under date of Thursday, October 16, at Worcester, says: "We moved this morning from the encampment (meaning Towamensing) at which we had been six or seven days past, and are just arrived on the grounds we occupied before the action of the fourth," meaning Germantown.

We have noted that the army came here from Pennypacker's Mills, Wednesday, October 8; that Thursday, October 9, Washington officially announced the funeral of General Nash at 10 a. m. that day. No record appears of the doings of the army Friday, October 10, but Saturday, October 11, is accounted for in this language, in which the original is preserved: "At Towamencin: Orderly Book.—The Commander-

in-Chief has the pleasure to inform the army that Congress has in an unanimous Resolve expressed their thanks to the officers and men, concerned in the attack on the enemy near Germantown, on the 4th inst., for their brave exertions on that occasion, and hopes the approbation of that Honorable Body will stimulate them to still nobler efforts on every future occasion."

Sunday, October 12, is one of the few Sabbaths unnoted in the itinerary.

The next day, Monday, October 13, at Towamensing, Colonel Pickering wrote to Mrs. Pickering concerning the condition of the army since the battle of Germantown, as follows:

Monday, October 13, at Towamencin: "With regard to the army 'tis in good spirits, and re-enforced since the last action by the arrival of some troops from Peekskill (under General Varnum), and five regiments of militia from Virginia, and one regiment from Virginia well disciplined, being the State regiment. But Pennsylvania, from which we ought to have the largest re-enforcements of militia, has now but about 1200 men in the field; whereas they should have as many thousand, if needed."

This brings us to the last day of the encampment at Towamensing, which was Wednesday, October 15, according to Baker's Itinerary. It appears Washington had just received news of the success of the American troops eight days prior over Burgoyne's army in New York, and this information was given to the army here in the following encouraging language:

"Wednesday, October 15, at Towamencin: Orderly Book. —The General has the repeated pleasure of informing the army of the success of the troops under the command of General Gates over General Burgoyne's army on the 7th inst. (the second battle of Stillwater). The action commenced at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, between the pickets of the two armies, which were reënforced on both sides. The contest was warm, and continued till night with obstinacy, when our troops gained the advanced lines of the enemy, and encamped on that ground all night."

The next day, Thursday, October 16, the army moved to Worcester for the second time, where headquarters were at the house of Peter Wentz, now the residence of Joseph K. Schultz. This place has been in the Schultz family since 1794.

On Saturday, October 18, three days after Washington announced to his army in Towamensing the defeat of Burgoyne in New York, he (Washington) on further good news from New York issued from headquarters in Worcester the following, which is not wholly out of place in connection with the encampment here. He said:

"Saturday, October 18, at Worcester: Orderly Book.—The General has his happiness completed relative to the success of the Northern army. On the 14th instant General Burgoyne and his whole army surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Let every face brighten, and every heart expand with grateful joy and praise to the Supreme Disposer of all events, who has granted this signal success. The chaplains of the army are to prepare short discourses, suited to the occasion, to deliver to their several corps and brigades at five o'clock this afternoon."

Right here, it seems to me, an account of the burial of General Nash, Colonel Boyd, Major White and Lieutenant Smith, in the near-by Mennonite burial ground might be interesting. The facts are taken from "Washington and His Generals" (1855) by George Lippard.

As to the authenticity of the account, Lippard says in a foot-note that "all the legends given in this chronicle are derived from substantial fact or oral tradition. . . . With regard to the funeral ceremonies at the Mennonite Church at Towamensing there can be no doubt. General Nash and his companions in death were buried with the honors of war in the presence of the whole army the day after the battle."

The coffins for the four officers were hewn out of rough pine wood and laid upon trestles. Around the graves were grouped the chieftains of the American army. Washington stood near the coffins. Wayne stood by his side and there were also present Greene, Sullivan, Maxwell, Armstrong, Stirling, Forman, Smallwood and Knox. Count Pulaski, tall and imposing, clad in a white-hued uniform, stood near the coffin's head. These were the pall-bearers of the dead.

Resting on the pine coffin of General Nash were the chapeau and sword of a general officer; on that of Colonel Boyd, the sword and chapeau of a commanding officer; of Ma-

for White's corse the author simply says he was "handsome and dignified even in death." On the coffin of the last man—Lieutenant Smith—were a lieutenant's cap and sword.

Space forbids the use of the funeral sermon of the occasion, as reported by Lippard. The text was "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord,—they rest from their labors and their works do follow them." The preacher's opening words were: "Soldiers and Countrymen: Our brethren lie before us in all the solemnity of death. . . . They did die in the Lord, my brethren. Fighting in the holiest cause, fighting against the wrong, and might and violence, the brave Nash rode into the ranks of battle, and while the bullets of the hirelings whistled around him, while all was terror and gloom, he fell at the head of his men bravely flashing the sword for his fatherland." . . .

So fell White and so fell Boyd; you have all heard how Lieutenant Smith met his death. You have heard how he went forth on the battle morn with the flag of truce in his hand. You have heard how he approached the fatal mansion on the battle-field; you have heard how those merciless men pointed their muskets at his heart, and he fell, bathing the flag of truce with the warm blood of his heart."

"They fell, but their blood shall not fall unheeded. George of Brunswick may augur success to his cause from the result of the fight, but the weak and mistaken man shall soon know his delusion false." . . .

The sermon was followed by an eloquent prayer, which Lippard reports *verbatim*. The story then continues: "The last words of the preacher sank into the hearts of his hearers. Every man felt awed, every soul was thrilled." Then the four coffins were lowered into the graves. A file of soldiers with upraised muskets took their places along the graves. The word of command was given and a volley was fired. The soldiers then swept aside and a cannon was wheeled near the graves, with the cannoneer standing with the lighted gunstock by its side. The subdued word of command was again heard and the earthquake thunder of the cannon shook the graveyard.

Again did the file of musketry peal forth a volley and the cannon flame, flashing down to the very graves of the dead.

The soldiers then opened to the right and to the left and the pall-bearers of the dead advanced and one by one looked into the graves of the slain.

"This was the scene," says Lippard, "when Washington looked for the last time into the grave of Nash and his death-mates."

The graves are marked by a monument. On the northeast side is chiselled:

"Per Acta Belli. In memory of Colonel Boyd, Major White, of Philadelphia; Lieutenant Smith of Va., American officers wounded in the battle of Germantown, and interred side by side in the order named, southward from General Nash."

On the northwest side is "Honor to the brave."

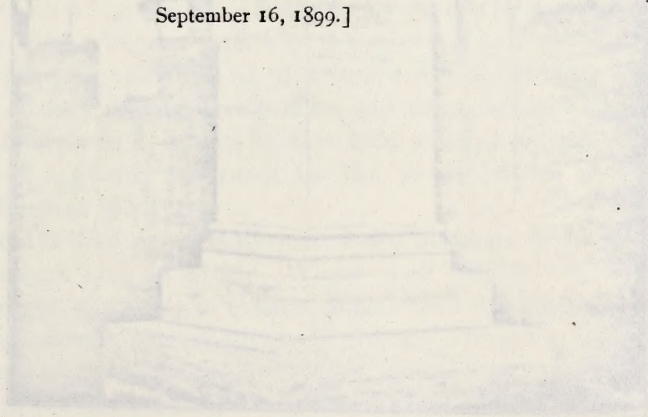
On the southwest face of the monument:

"Vota via meapro Patria.

"In memory of General Nash, of North Carolina, mortally wounded in the battle of Germantown. Interred October, 1777, in the presence of the army here encamped."

On the southwest side: "Erected by citizens of Germantown and Norristown in 1844."

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, at Mainland,
September 16, 1899.]



MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF GENERAL NASH



MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF GENERAL NASH

EARLY PENNSYLVANIA LITERATURE.

By I. C. Williams, Esq., of Norristown.

The present undertaking was not begun in the hope of being able to discover any hitherto unknown facts relating to the literature of the early German settlers of the eastern part of Pennsylvania. As to many of the colonists themselves, the door of investigation is still wide open, but with respect to their literary work, the field has been gleaned almost bare. The researches of the late Dr. Seidensticker of the University of Pennsylvania and the investigations of Mr. Dotterer and A. H. Cassel of our own society, Mr. Julius Sachse, and the Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, of Philadelphia, have been conducted with such thoroughness and painstaking fidelity that to discover one hitherto unknown imprint would be a find indeed. And let it be asked, where in all our community is the one other man who has done so much to preserve the memories of the old German settlers as the quiet, unassuming, unpretentious, scholarly-minded, Christian gentleman, our much beloved Mr. Cassel, whose library was a monument of industry with a literary wealth of the mines of Golconda? A present purpose, therefore, is to review a few of the more important of their literary productions and thus endeavor to incite an interest in a certain literary field which long lay dormant, and a greater reverence for the pious labors of the sturdy German pioneers.

Could a time more auspicious and a place more suitable be chosen for such an effort? Where in all our State is there a community partaking in greater degree than this of that unassuming piety, plainness of speech, honest demeanor, severe morality, and open-handed hospitality, which were so characteristic of the Mennonite, the Dunker, the Pietist, the Lutheran, the German Reformed, the Moravian, and the Schwenkfelder, of 150 or more years ago?

It is the same old story of religious bigotry, intolerance, persecution. Could the earth speak, the plains of Holland and the valleys of the Rhine and Neckar might such a bloody tale unfold as could scarcely be approached in the wildest flights of fancy. Flight from home and native land, or fire, torture, death, were the alternatives. Germantown became the foundation point of German immigration, whence radiation took place in all directions. In October, 1683, thirteen families arrived at Germantown, as one of the number expressed it, "to lead a quiet and Christian life." It is facetiously said of the early New Englander that the first thing he did upon arrival was to fall upon his knees and the next to fall upon the Indians, but no such imputation attaches to the German. He was absorbed in subduing the wilderness, cultivating a spirit of meekness, and then rising to a height of literary eminence through obstacles well nigh insurmountable to a less determined race.

Whatever books they possessed at first consisted of the great Luther Bible and a few others in both the German and the Dutch languages, brought from Europe. It took fifty years to call forth their latent literary genius. The cost of printing in Europe, the cost of importation, and the great inconvenience of being thus dependent, together with a spirit of religious disputation, gave rise to the need of home productions.

The two great printing establishments of Colonial America were situated respectively at Germantown and at Ephrata, in Lancaster county. The justly celebrated press of Christopher Saur, father, son and grandson, was at the former place, while that of the Bruederschaft, or solitary community, was at the latter. It is said that from the Saur press more than two hundred publications of importance were issued, besides pamphlets, broadsides, etc., while from the community at Ephrata more than fifty appeared.

The Ephrata community is indeed unique in the annals of American religious history. It was founded by John Conrad Beissel, in 1732, on the banks of the Cocalico creek, in Lancaster county, and the settlement was called Ephrata.

Beissel was born in 1690 at Eberbach, a town in the Palatinate, and was the youngest of a family of children. By the death of his mother before he had reached his teens he was left largely to his own resources. He became acquainted with certain religious enthusiasts, called Pietists, embraced their form of belief, was arrested, imprisoned, and banished on that account. At Schwarzenau and Creyfeld, whither he went, he met other ambitious discontents like himself and together they determined to sail for America. They landed at Boston in 1720. Later Beissel came to Germantown. He was here apprenticed to learn the weaver's trade of Peter Becker, the first bishop of the German Baptist Brethren in America. While at Germantown he formed the acquaintance of the elder Christopher Saur. He began early to proclaim his strange doctrines, chief among which were the observance of Saturday as the Sabbath, and a celibate life, denouncing marriage as unholy. From the former observance his followers came to be known as Seventh Day Baptists, and from the latter as Solitary Brethren. They are likewise called Mystics and Separatists. He withdrew from Germantown and with a few kindred spirits took up his residence in the wilderness of the back country. He became the superintendent or vorsteher of the community, under the title of "Vater Friedsam."

Beissel, though erratic, was a genius. He ruled his community with a will of iron, and compelled his co-religionists to be subservient to his violent domination.

Other presses contributed to the German literature of the time, notably those of Bradford, Franklin, Miller, Armbruester, and Hasselbach; but on the above first mentioned two the great mass of German literature of the day was impressed.

In the year 1728 Beissel published his "Neun und Neunzig Mystische Sprache," and "Das Büchlein vom Sabbath." He was asked why he made only 99 mystical sayings and not 100. His reply was that as the number 99 was reached he was stopped in the spirit. Both of these publications are believed to have been printed at Philadelphia, although they bore no imprint. No copies of either at this time are known to exist and the titles are derived from the Chronicon Ephratense.

In 1730 another work by Beissel appeared, entitled "Ehebüchlein," or book of matrimony. According to the best of the present knowledge on the subject this was printed in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin. In this book, his biographer says, "he declares matrimony to be the penitentiary of carnal man, and fully exposes the abominations committed therein under the appearance of right."

Benjamin Franklin at this time was printing an English newspaper entitled the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. In the issue of the *Gazette* for June 15, 1732, it is announced that on Saturday, June 24, "will be published *Philadelphische Zeitung*, or Newspaper in high Dutch, which will continue to be published on Saturdays once a Fortnight. Advertisements are taken by the Printer hereof, or by Louis Timothee, who translates them." This was the first German newspaper in America.

Christopher Saur shortly after set up his press, and from the beginning of his printing till the time of the Revolutionary War volume followed volume, printed in the best style of the art. After the death of the founder, in 1758, the business was continued by his son, Bishop Christopher Saur, and in turn by his grandson, the son of the bishop.

The first imprint of any consequence from this press was what he called "Ein A. B. C. und Buchstabierbuch, bey allen Religionen ohne billigen Anstosz gebrauchen"; an A B C spelling book to be used by all religions without reasonable hesitation. Printed at Germantown by C. Saur, 1738. An advertisement of this little work is found in Saur's Almanac for the year 1740.

Following the A B C book we find the first German calendar published in America. This calendar, as it appeared from year to year, was a remarkable work in its day, and is indeed no less remarkable at this day. The first issue was for the year 1739, and was printed, of course, the preceding year. It is entitled, "Der Hoch-Deutsch Amerikanische Calender auf das Jahr 1739. Germantown: Christoph Saur, 1738." So far as is known to literateurs no perfect copy of this first issue is known to exist. However, a careful search of the garrets and storerooms in this and other German communi-

ties might reveal wonderful things in the way of German imprints.

The next year the calendar for 1740 was issued. This was a larger and more pretentious publication. Its title in full is: "Der Hoch-Deutsch Americanische Kalender, Auf das Jahr Nach der Gnadenreichen Geburth unsers Herrn und Heylandes Jesu Christi 1740: (Welches ein Schalt-Jahr ist). In sich haltende: Die Wochen Tage; Den Tag des Monaths; Tage welche bemerkt werden; Des Monds Auf- und Untergang; Des Monds Zeichen und Grad; Voll und neu Licht; erst und letzt Viertel; Aspecten der Planeten samt Witterung; Der 7 Sternen Aufgang, Sud- Platz und Untergang; Der Sonnen Auf- und Untergang; Nebst einem Bericht, woher viele, im Calender vorkommende Dinge herkommen; Erklärung der Zeichen, Adlerlasz- Täff- lein, Anzeigung der Finsternüsse Courten, Fären, &c. Ein- gerichtet vor die Sonnen Höhe von Pennsylvanien: Jedoch an denen angrentzenden Ländern ohne merklichen Unterschied zu gebrauchen. Zum andern mahl herausgegeben, German- town: Gedruckt und zu finden bey Christoph Saur; auch koennen die auswaertige Kraemer solche bey Johannes Wister in Philadelphia haben."

A rather free translation is as follows: The High German American Calendar, for the year after the gracious birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 1740 (which is a leap year). In which are contained the week days, the days of the months, remarkable days, the rising and setting of the moon, full and new moon, first and last quarters, aspect of the planets, together with the condition of the weather, the rising, position, southing and setting of the constellation of the Great Bear, the rising and setting of the sun, including an account of whence many well known things in the calendar are derived, an explanation of the signs, etc., and information relating to eclipses, etc. Corrected for the meridian of Pennsylvania, nevertheless to be used in the adjacent territory without perceptible difference. Germantown: Printed by and to be had of Christopher Saur; outside merchants can also obtain it from John Wister, in Philadelphia. 1739.

This calendar is a small quarto containing twenty-four pages. A copy can be seen at the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The Cassel library contained a copy of this number and a number of others for later years.

This High German calendar continued from year to year without intermission for a period upward of fifty years. It was the great guide for the German inhabitants of the province. On account of the high character of its author the people implicitly believed everything it contained. A story is related of a farmer in the upper part of the county, who, desiring to drive to Philadelphia, consulted his Saur almanac as to the probable condition of the weather. Finding that the day would be fair he set out upon his journey. By the time he reached Germantown he had become so completely soaked by the rain which fell after he had started that he vowed he would teach Saur never to deceive him in the future. When the farmer arrived at the door the good printer was called out and roundly scolded by the drenched husbandman. Waiting till the torrent had run out, Saur quietly said, "Friend, be not thus angry, for although I made the almanac, the Lord Almighty made the weather."

Between the years 1762-78 he published herein a complete description of all the plants used in the *Materia Medica*. A complete set of the Saur almanacs has been procured by Dr. Brumbaugh for the library of Juniata College, at Huntingdon. In the same year, 1739, appeared "Der Hoch Deutsch Pennsylvanische Geschicht-Schreiber Oder Sammlung Wichtiger Nachrichten, aus dem Natur-und Kirchen-Reiche; Erster Stück, August 20, 1739." Germantown, Christoph Saur, 1739. Translated—The High German Pennsylvania Historian, or a Collection of Important News Relating to the Kingdom of Nature and the realm of the Church: First Part, August 20, 1739.

This now rare periodical appeared monthly for ten years, when, after number 93, issued April 1, 1748, it appeared semi-monthly, but every alternate issue only was numbered, the unnumbered portions being regarded as parts of the numbered issues. With number 43 the name was changed to *Hoch*

Deutsche Pennsylvanische Berichte. In number 71 the title was reduced to *Pennsylvanische Berichte*. The publication was a small quarto in size containing generally four but sometimes six or eight pages. Between the years 1751-53 it appeared as a folio. It continued to be issued semi-monthly till the year 1777. Only one copy of the first number is known to exist and that is in the private library of a well-known Philadelphia gentleman. It circulated among the German population throughout the colonies, and in 1751 its circulation had reached 4000 copies.

In the same year, 1739, Saur printed his first book. Conrad Beissel was a prolific writer and earnest collector of hymns, and many other members of the Ephrata community are remembered chiefly for the hymns they wrote. The need of hymn books was sorely felt and Saur was asked to print the same in book form. The result was a volume, the first German book printed in America, and the first book from the now celebrated Germantown press. The preface of the book is dated at Ephrata, 14th of 4th-month, 1739. This, including the title page, covers fourteen pages, the index the same number, and between are 792 pages of hymns.

The *Chronicon Ephratense* says: "A holy impulse to have a share in the great store of hymns which the awakened in Germany brought to light, induced the Solitary to make a collection of said hymns, which also was published through the celebrated High German printing press there under the title of "Zionitischer Weyrauchs Hügel," the Zionitic Hill of Incense. The title in full is: "Zionitischer Weyrauchs Hügel Oder: Myrrhen Berg, Worinnen allerley liebliches und wohlriechendes nach Apotheker-Kunft zo bereitetes Rauch-Werck zu finden. Bestehend in allerley Liebes Würckungen der in Gott geheiligten Seelen, welche sich in vielen und mancherley geistlichen und lieblichen Liedern ausgebildet. Als darinnen Der letzte Ruff zu dem Abendmahl des grossen Gottes auf unterschiedeliche Weise trefflich ausgedrucket ist; Zum Dienst Der in dem Abend- Ländischen Welt- Theil als bey dem Untergang der Sonnen erweckten Kirche Gottes, und

zu ihrer Ermunterung auf die Mitternächliche Zukunfft der Bräutigams aus Licht gegeben."

The printing of this book gave rise to a quarrel between Saur and Beissel, and largely influenced Beissel to set up a press of his own at Ephrata. All the writers who have heretofore dealt with this subject have related the story of their disagreement, and it is repeated here. The 400th hymn, verse 37, runs as follows:

Sehet, sehet, sehet an!
Sehet, sehet an den Mann!
Der von Gott erhoehet ist,
Der ist unser Herr und Christ.

Translated literally, the above verse reads:

Look, look, look,
Look, look upon the man;
He is exalted by God;
He is our Lord and Christ.

Saur's compositor asked the meaning of this and wanted to know if more than one Christ had appeared. When the compositor explained, after inquiry, that it seemed to him Beissel was pointing to himself in the hymn, Saur wrote Beissel asking if the suspicions were correct. The *Chronicon Ephratense* then proceeds as follows: "The Superintendent, who in such things never remained anyone's debtor, sent back to him a short reply to the following intent: 'Answer not a fool according to his folly,' etc. 'As vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.' (Proverbs 25: 20.) This aroused the good man to a fiery heat, and he resolved to avenge himself for this affront. Therefore he published a document against the superintendent in which he told under how strange a conjunction of the stars the superintendent was, and how each planet manifested in him its own characteristics. From Mars he had his great severity, from Jupiter his friendliness, from Venus that the female sex ran after him, Mercury had taught him the art of a comedian, etc. He even found in his name, Conradus Beusselus, the numbers of the Beast, 666. By this occurrence the good understanding between the printer and the community at Ephrata was interrupted for many years,

and was not restored until the printer's wife, who had hitherto lived at Ephrata, went back to him again. From that time on until his death he lived on good terms with the superintendent and all the solitary in the settlement and won for himself an everlasting remembrance among them by many deeds of love."

The "Weyrauchs Hügel" is the largest and most important collection of hymns of the Ephrata Cloister. The music to which these hymns were sung was beautifully written and illuminated by hand, whole pages being given over to decoration. Such a copy was recently seen by the writer at Ephrata. It is not known of how many copies Saur's edition consisted. The book was in common use and has now become exceedingly scarce, and it is said a large number of these are imperfect. The library of this society contains a copy. Copies of this rare book were exhibited at the centennial of Montgomery county in 1884 by A. H. Cassel and by Charles G. Sower, of Philadelphia.

Henry Antes was one of the early settlers in that part of Montgomery county now called Frederick township. He took much interest in the religious controversies of the day. He was a member of that interesting religious convocation which met at Germantown in 1742, known as the Synod of 1742. It was he who distributed the circulars through the country inviting persons to attend. He became intimate with Spangenburg, Nitschmann and Zinzendorf, the Moravian leaders, who about this time had arrived in the country. At the synodical meeting above referred to he is classed as a member of the German Reformed faith. In 1742 there appeared an address over the name of Henry Antes, as follows: "Herrn Pyrläi Ausrufzeddel an die Einwohner in Pensilvanien, das Diejenige, so Herrn Grafen von Zizendorf noch einmal wolten predigen hören, sich melden solten. Unter Henrich Antes Namen geschrieben und in Pensilvanien gedruckt, 1742."

A history of the life and work of Henry Antes is, I understand, in course of preparation by our fellow member, Mr. Dotterer, some articles from his pen relating to Antes having already appeared in *The Perkiomen Region*.

The Synod of 1742, above referred to, met in Germantown in January of that year. The endeavor was to have all religious denominations represented and the purpose to evolve some plan by or through means of which greater religious unity among all sects might be attained. This was the beginning of the great annual meetings or conferences held to this day by the German Baptist Brethren. The proceedings of that assembly were printed by Benjamin Franklin, and are entitled: "Authentische Relation von dem Anlass Fortgang und Schlusse Der am 1-sten und 2-ten Januarii Anno 1742 in Germantown gehaltenen Versammlung. Einiger Arbeiter Derer meisten Christlichen Religionen und Vieler vor sich selbst Gott-dienenden Christen Menschen in Pennsylvania; Aufgesetzt in Germantown am Abend des 2-ten obigen Monats." Philadelphia: Gedruckt und zu haben bey B. Franklin. 1742. That is: An authentic account of the beginning, progress, and conclusion of some workers of most of the Christian religions of the convention held at Germantown, in Pennsylvania, on the first and second of January in the year 1741-42, and many other God-serving Christian men on their own behalf. Adjourned at Germantown on the evening of the second of the above named month.

The book is a square octavo, having about 16 pages. Franklin also published the minutes of succeeding conventions, and at this day are particularly valuable by reason of the interesting personal as well as religious history which they contain.

The name of John Philip Boehm does not have a strange sound in this neighborhood. He was a learned minister in the German Reformed Church, and Boehm's Reformed Church, at Blue Bell, is named in his honor. He is the author of a work of about 100 pages, the first part of the long title being: "Getreuer Warnungs Brief an die Hochteutsche Evangelisch Reformirten Gemeinden und alle deren Glieder in Pennsylvanien." The conclusion of the same is, "geschrieben von mir Joh: Ph: Boehm Hochteutschen Reform: Prediger der mir anvertrauten Gemeinden in Pennsylvanien, zu Philadelphia. Gedruckt by A. Bradford, 1742." Boehm was also the author

of a work on church government as applied to the Reformed Church, which book was printed by Gotthard Armbruester in 1748.

The next great achievement of the printer Saur was the production of the complete Holy Scriptures in the German language. This remarkable book, the first German Bible printed in America, bears date at Germantown, 1743. It was followed by a second edition in 1763, and a third in 1776. The title to the edition of 1743 is: "Biblia, Das ist, Die Heilige Schrift Altes und Neues Testaments, Nach der Deutschen Uebersetzung D. Martin Luthers, Mit jedes Capitels kurtzen Summarien, auch beygefügt vielen und richtigen Parlellen. Nebst einem Anhang Des dritten und vierten Buchs Esrä und des dritten Buchs der Maccabaer. Germantown, Gedruckt bey Christoph Saur, 1743."

The printing and publishing of the Holy Bible was the great effort of Christopher Saur's life. The book was in demand everywhere and the edition was exhausted before many years had passed. Christopher Saur (2d) issued a second edition in 1763 and a third in 1776. The unbound sheets of the last edition were laid upon the loft of the Germantown meeting-house to dry. Some of them were still in the loft and unbound at the time of the battle of Germantown. The cavalymen scattered these sheets under their horses for litter. After their departure Saur gathered together as many of the sheets as could be used. In this way he was able to obtain enough to bind and present one each to his children. Mr. Cassel had in his library one of these copies, some of the leaves showing dark stains and the imprint of hoofs. A copy of the 1776 edition, once the property of Jacob Gottschalk, is now in the library of this society, and at least nine copies of the various editions were exhibited at the county centennial.

The German Bible of Saur was an ancient book before an English edition was even thought of. The first English edition did not appear till 1782, a small 12mo. form by Robert Aitkin, and the quarto English Bible was not published till 1792.

The next German publication of prominence was the

charter and scheme of laws of William Penn. This was printed in instalments of about eight pages each and was presented by Saur to the subscribers of his newspaper. The title is: "Der Neue Charter Oder Schriftliche Versicherung; Der Freyheiten Welche William Penn, Esq.: Den Einwohnern von Pennsylvannien und desen Territorien gegeben Aus dem Englischen Original ubersetzt. Germantown, Gedruckt by Christoph Saur. 1743." Which, when rendered into English, is: "The New Charter or Written Assurance of Liberty which William Penn, Esq., Gave to the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania and its Territories. Translated from the Original English. Germantown. Printed by Christopher Saur, 1743." The book makes a small quarto of 55 pages, and contains the following titles: Penn's Charter of 1701; Royal Grant of the Province to Penn by Charles II.; Frame of Government, 1682; Laws Agreed Upon in England; Conditions and Concessions of July 11, 1681; Act of Settlement, 1682; Extracts from the Philadelphia Charter; Abstracts of the Poor Laws and Various other Laws.

One of the curiosities in the history of ancient German printing is "Der Frommen Lotterie, oder Geistliches Schatz-Kästlein." A religious lottery, as the name implies, and was printed by Saur in 1744. Mr. Cassel exhibited a copy of this rare publication at the county centennial and furnished the following account of it:

"It consisted of 381 tickets, printed on stiff white paste board, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size, and numbered like lottery tickets, each containing a poetic gem composed by the celebrated Gerhard Tersteegen, and a verse or passage from the Scriptures. These tickets were inclosed in neat cases, some made of leather and others of wood, nicely dovetailed. The good people in olden times enjoyed themselves, generally on a Sunday afternoon, by drawing prizes out of this sacred or spiritual treasury, and often when they felt gloomy or despondent they would resort to it in the hope of drawing some promise or consolation to cheer their drooping spirits."

A copy printed by Saur three years later was exhibited at the same time and place by George F. Price Wanger, of Norristown.

Heinrich Funck, the pious miller on the Indian creek, is a name which appeals to this immediate community. He was one of the German immigrants and settled on the Indian creek about the year 1719. W. H. Richardson, of this society, has written a very interesting and entertaining account of Henry Funk and published the same in the *Millers' Review*, Philadelphia. Mr. Richardson's paper was republished by the *Montgomery Transcript* in its issue of July 21, 1899. Heinrich Funck was associated with Dielman Kolb as supervisor of the translation and printing of the great Martyr book of the Mennonites. He was the author of two books, the first of which bears the title, "Ein Spiegel der Tauffe mit Geist mit Wasser und mit Blut. Verfasset in neun Theil, aufs neue auggesetzt und ausgezogen aus dem Heiligen Fundament-Buch, des Neuen und Alten Testaments, der Cononischen Bucher. (Germantown.) Gedruckt im Jahr 1744."

This little book on baptism is a 16mo. of 44 pages and has passed through a number of editions. The writer has a copy of the late edition, the imprint of which is "Schippach, Pa., Gedruckt bei Johann M. Schunemann, 1853."

The other work of which Henry Funk is the author is entitled, "Eine Restitution Oder eine Erklärung einiger Haupt-puncten des Gesetzes—Verlegt und zum Druck befördert durch die von Henrich Funcks unterlassen Kindern. Phila., Gedruckt bey Anton Armbruester in Maravien Ally, 1763." This work has passed through at least three editions and is of considerable merit.

Henry Funk was by occupation a miller and by profession a preacher in the Mennonite Church. The mill he owned and occupied is situated on the Indian creek near the Brethren meeting-house of the same name. He is probably most widely known on account of the part he took in the translation and publishing of the Martyr book, of which more hereafter.

The chief functionaries of the Ephrata Cloister were the Vorsteher or superintendent and the Prior. The former, as already stated, was Conrad Beissel. The first Prior, Israel Eckerlin by name, was the eldest of four brothers, and was known in the community as Bruder or Prior Onesimus. The

history of the Eckerlin brothers is aside from the present purpose and can be entertainingly studied from Chronicon Ephratense and Dr. Brumbaugh's History of the Brethren, just issued. Israel Eckerlin, however, was the author of an anti-Moravian tract and several other writings. Eckerlin and Beissel had a quarrel, the former was declared to be in rebellion against the superintendent and was banished to the wilderness in the year 1745. The following account is from Chronicon Ephratense: "When it was rumored that the Prior had rebelled against the superintendent, the Brethren began to revile everything he had done when in office. It has already been mentioned that a writing had been published in the English language in the settlement; this was burnt, because it had been printed by his order without general consent. There were also condemned to the flames a title and preface which he had written for the superintendent's printed Theosophic Epistles; for both were offensive, because he had extolled the superintendent without measure in the title, and had rashly said in the preface that most mystical books were not worth more than to be burnt afterwards; however, another title and preface was substituted. The sisters followed this example and burnt all hymns and writings they had which were composed by him, among which two writings especially are to be named, one 'The Life of a Solitary,' and the other, 'Rules and Precepts of a Soldier of Jesus Christ.' The Brethren likewise collected everything that originated with him and delivered it to a brother to have it burnt."

The Chronicon further says "they (the Prior and his two brothers) fled about 400 English miles toward the setting of the sun."

A hymn book in common use during the early part of the last century was entitled the "Davidische Psalterspiel." This was a book of nearly 1000 pages, with double columns, and contained 1047 hymns. It was first printed in Germany in the year 1718, and copies were brought over by the colonists. Being large, cumbrous and costly, the need was early felt for a smaller, less costly, and therefore more useful hymnal. Accordingly Christopher Saur, at the request of his brethren and

assisted by them, made a selection of the most desirable hymns and the same were published in 1744 under the title of "Das Kleine Davidische Psalterspiel." The new hymnal sprang into immediate popularity and was the most important work of its kind in all colonial America. It has passed through at least fourteen editions and is not scarce. At the county centennial Mr. Cassel exhibited a copy of the edition of 1791, printed by Samuel Saur at Chestnut Hill, for the purpose of proving that a printing press did exist at that place.

Christopher Saur (2d) received from the sale of the second edition of the Bible larger profits than he expected. To show his gratitude to the people who thus patronized him, he began, in 1764, the publication of a periodical which he called the "Geistliches Magazien," and this was the first German religious paper in America. The title in full is "Ein Geistliches Magazien: Aus den Schätzen der Schrift-gelehrten zum Himmelreich gelehrt, dargereichtes Altes und Neues, Germantown; Gedruckt bey Christoph Saur, 1764." This magazine Saur distributed without charge. Fifty numbers were printed at intervals extending over seven years. Its publication ceased in the year 1770.

The Ephrata community became famous for its music, and about the middle of the last century was looked upon as the musical centre of all America. Ludwig Blum was one of the house fathers of the cloister and was known as a master singer and one versed in composition. He organized a singing school of seventy or more members. Beissel managed to learn the secrets of the singing master's teachings, dismissed him and assumed charge of the singing himself. The result of this was the choral songs. The *Chronicon* says: "They were brought to light, partly printed, partly written, Anno 1754, under the title: 'Paradisiacal Wonder Music,' which in these latter times and days became prominent in the occidental parts of the world as a prevision of the New World, consisting of an entirely new and uncommon manner of singing, arranged in accord with the angelic and heavenly choirs. Herein the song of Moses and the Lamb, also the song of Solomon, and other witnesses out of the Bible and from other saints, are

brought into sweet harmony. Everything arranged with much labor and great trouble, after the manner of singing of the angelic choirs, by a Peaceful one, who desires no other name or title in this world." The writer had the pleasure of seeing one of these rare books of the above date at Ephrata a few weeks ago. This is the famous 'Paradisches Wunderspiel.' Hildeburn says of it: "The only copy I have met with of this volume, once the property of Sister Barbara, of the Ephrata community, is one of the most remarkable specimens of Pennsylvania bookmaking. The text begins on the reverse of the title. The page, not quite 14 inches in length, contains usually six lines of type, besides the heading, every two lines being divided by spaces of three inches, which are filled with manuscript music for four voices. The end of each musical phrase is marked by more or less elaborate penwork in two or three colors, amounting occasionally to an illumination, generally in the shape of a floral design."

Since the advent of scientific instruction into the teachers' world many persons believe that the science of teaching takes its rise from recent date. To see and believe the contrary we have only to go back to the "Schul-Ordnung." Christopher Dock was a pious Mennonite who came to Pennsylvania from Germany about 1714. Very soon thereafter he opened a school on the Skippack among the people of his own faith. He owned and lived upon a large farm in Salford township and taught school alternately at Skippack and at Germantown in the old log meeting-house which stood in a corner of the Mennonite Cemetery. His plan of instruction was so different from any other methods then known that Christopher Saur urged him to write a treatise on the subject. Modesty forbade, and it was only after repeated urging that he finally consented to write, and then only on condition that the work should not be published until after his death.

He finally consented, in 1769, to have it published, but by this time the manuscript had been lost. After a search it was discovered and appeared in print the next year as an octavo pamphlet having 54 pages. The title in part is: "Eine Einfäl-

tige und gründlich abgefasste Schul-Ordnung. German-town: Gedbruckt und zu finden by Christoph Saur, 1770."

This is regarded as the first treatise upon the science of teaching and school management in America. None earlier is known. The Hon. S. W. Pennypacker says in his translation of and dissertation upon the book: "If there be any in New England or elsewhere to dispute priority with that of the Pennsylvania Dutchman, let it be produced." The book is now exceedingly rare. A copy was exhibited by John C. Boorse at the county centennial and one by Charles G. Sower, of Philadelphia.

One of the literary curiosities frequently met with in the German communities is the illuminated pen work known as "Fraktur Schrift." An excellent description of it is contained in the published account of the county centennial. It consists of geometrical figures and the figures of animals, plants, flowers and other objects, with considerable scroll work, all done in different colored inks. Schoolmasters were in the habit of making presents of this work to their pupils, and in these cases it usually contained the name of the person to whom it was presented, together with a quotation of scripture, the date, etc. These were highly prized by the recipients and carefully preserved. The same work is frequently to be found on the birth and marriage pages of old family Bibles, where the writer gave full vent to imagination and display.

Several specimens of Fraktur Schrift were exhibited at the county centennial by Mr. Cassel and one at least by Gus Egolf.

The "Chronicon Ephratense," which has frequently been mentioned above, is a record of the Ephrata community and a biography of Conrad Beissel. It is believed to have been written by the learned Peter Miller and another who is now unknown. The authors as stated on the title page are "Lamech and Agrippa." The book was printed at Ephrata in 1786. As may well be imagined it is one of the most valued records of the Cloister. The book has been translated into English, and the translation was published at Lancaster in 1889. The following extract is from the translator's preface: "Of the

original, probably not more than twenty copies are known to be in existence; and these, with possibly a few exceptions, are in the hands of collectors and antiquarians. To them its chief value lies not only in the great rarity of the work, but also in the fact that it is one of the most interesting specimens of bookmaking in Pennsylvania to be found anywhere—the paper, printing and binding all being of strictly native production, the handiwork of the Solitary Brethren of the community at Ephrata, whose history it so quaintly and naively narrates.

“It is believed, however, that the work has also a larger interest and an intrinsic value of its own, as an exceedingly frank and ingenuous contribution to our knowledge of the peculiar and wholly unique social and religious condition, and entire spiritual life, of a very considerable part of the early settlers of central and southern Pennsylvania. The otherwise incomprehensible heterogeneous social and religious life of that populous, prosperous, and important part of the State of which Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, York and Dauphin counties are the representatives; the strange variety of dialect, dress, social habits, religious beliefs, and sectarian organizations, to be met with in those counties to-day, are all readily accounted for as soon as we become acquainted with the history of the people and their surroundings, to which the *Chronicon* introduces us.”

There is in existence another valuable record of the Ephrata community which is unique. It consists of a German manuscript letter book of Conrad Beissel, hitherto unknown. It is now in the private library of a gentleman in Philadelphia, and will probably be published within a reasonable time. This will, no doubt, throw considerable inside light upon that strange aggregation of religious discontents which flourished for nearly a hundred years in the Conestoga country.

Probably the most marvelous and the monumental literary work of the German settlers of Pennsylvania remains to be noticed. The *Martyr's Mirror* is by all odds the largest and most important of their publications, not even excepting the *Saur Bible*.

Before the year 1748 there existed among the Mennonites

in the Dutch language a book containing an account of those who suffered for their religious beliefs, beginning at the time of Christ and coming down to 1660. It was a compilation of Tieleman J. Voñ Braght, and was regarded as a volume peculiar to the Mennonites. Bearing in mind their testimony against war, the old church fathers feared that the young people might forget their early teaching and be led to do what their discipline forbade. Being fearful also that the war between England and France might extend to the colonies and involve them, they desired to fortify themselves against such a prospect, and they attempted to do it by means of this book.

The difficulties in the way were not trifles. Where should they find one who could and would make a faithful translation, and where was the printer who would put the translation into book form? They resolved to apply to the Ephrata community. Previously in 1742 and again in 1745 they had sent letters to Holland for assistance. They received no reply till 1748, and this was in the nature of an excuse. A committee consisting of Heinrich Funck and Dielman Kolb had been appointed to attend to the arrangements for the translation and printing by the Ephrata brotherhood. The work was translated from the Dutch into the German by the learned Peter Miller, while Funk and Kolb supervised the whole work of printing and publication, as their certificate appended to the book shows.

Fifteen of the solitary brethren were specially detailed for this work. One was corrector and translator, four were compositors, and four were pressmen. The remainder worked in the paper mill. Three years were occupied in getting out the edition of 1300 copies. It was printed and bound in large folio form and bears date at Ephrata, 1748. The title in full is as follows: "Der Blutige Schau-Platz oder Märtyrer Spiegel der Tauffs-Gesinten oder Wehrlosen Christen, die um des Zeugnuß Jesu ihres Seligmachers willen gelitten haben, und seynd getoedtet worden, von Christi Zeit an bis auf das Jahr 1660. Vormals aus unterschiedlichen glaubwuerdigen Chronicken, Nachrichten und Zeugnuessen gesamlet und in Hollaendischer Sprach herausgegeben von T. J. V. Braght. Nun

aber sorgfaeltigst ins Hochteutsche ueberstzt und zum erstenmal ans Light gebraucht. Ephrata in Pensylvanien, Drucks und Verlags der Bruederschafft Anno MDCCXLVIII." "The Bloody Theatre or Martyrs' Mirror of the Defenseless Christians who suffered and died for the Testimony of Jesus, their Saviour, from the time of Christ to the year 1660. Compiled from various authentic chronicles, memorials and testimonies, and published in the language of Holland by T. J. V. Braght. Now translated into High German and published for the first time therein."

The book consists of 1512 pages, printed upon paper made at Ephrata, and is bound in the strongest manner. It was bound in two volumes and in this case the second volume is dated 1749. A plate was also prepared for binding with the book, but the Mennonites refused to buy it with the picture in it, so in their copies it was omitted. This engraving is that of John the Baptist baptizing Christ by immersion in the river Jordan. At the bottom of the picture is an oval space in which appears a condensed title of the book in German script. There is a copy of this book in the library of the society. It consists of the two volumes bound in one and contains the baptismal picture.

The book is full of familiar names, and families bearing the names of Aker, Brubaker, Bowman, Bean, Bachman, Gottwals, Garber, Jacobs, Johnson, Kassel (Cassel), Keyser, Kolb or Kulp, Landis, Miller, Royer, Shoemaker, Snyder, Weaver, Wanger, Wagner and Yocum can trace their ancestry therein.

During the Revolutionary War it was learned that large quantities of these books were stored at Ephrata. Soldiers and carts were sent to carry them away with which to make ammunition for the use of the army. The Chronicon says, "This gave great offence in the country and many thought that the war would not end favorably for the country, because the memorials of the holy martyrs had been thus maltreated. At last, however, they were honored again, for some sensible persons bought in all that were left of them."

In his work on the issues of the Pennsylvania Press, Mr. Hildeburn says that "The German presses produced little else

than Bibles and catechisms, hymn books and prayer books, martyr books and ghost stories. These volumes are remarkable for their bulkiness, but with the exception of the publications of the Ephrata community, are almost all reprints of European works." Granting that there is some truth in the above statement, the language seems to be much too strong to be consonant with the facts. Granting also that some of their prints were reissues of European editions, was there not enough new and original material published to entitle it to a little greater consideration? The fact that all the early Germans were religious refugees is sufficient to give trend to their thoughts and actions, and that their publications were mainly of a religious character is nothing more than could be expected; but this fact in no wise lessens the value of their books. Within their peculiar field they were leaders of thought, and it is to be hoped that the effects of their voluminous literature and the imprint of their sterling Christian manhood may never be effaced from the Pennsylvania character.

[Read at the meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society, held at Christ Church, Mainland, September 16, 1899.]

ASHBOURNE IN ENGLAND AND ASHBORNE IN AMERICA.

By Rev. S. F. Hotchkin.

We are assembled in Cheltenham, which takes its appellation from the place of the same name in Gloucestershire, England. The river Chilt runs through that town to the Severn, and hence comes Cheltenham.

The immediate neighborhood here is called Ashbourne. 'Squire C. Mather, of Jenkintown, whose family are old settlers, and who has had much experience in real estate matters, writes me that the village was first called Bountytown, as three soldiers who received bounties in the Civil War built houses here. The name was given in A. D. 1865.

Major H. E. Heinermarsh, at a meeting to change the name, suggested Ashburn, as ashes remained after the burning. The Gazetteer then contained no other such name. The United States Postal Guide now has an Ashburn in Pike county, Missouri.

A gentleman long resident here informs me that an English inhabitant offered the name, but the 'Squire knows not the nationality of the proposer, who removed years ago.

Another person, interested in local history, wrote, what I had heard before, that Richard J. Dobbins was riding in the vicinity with his English coachman, who remarked that the beautiful scenery was like that around Lord Ashbourne's place in England, where he lived, and so Mr. Dobbins adopted the English name, and that this "is the generally accepted origin." There may be a confusion here with the Irish Lord Ashbourne. Still another gentleman refers to an English general named Ashbourne who was in this country in the Civil War, though he does not derive the name from him.

J. S. Wise, Secretary and Treasurer of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, has just sent me a note saying that

Mr. Dobbins adopted the name for the depot, and he "built and owned the Station House."

It may be that the solution is that the name was first adopted at the meeting, and afterwards approved by Mr. Dobbins, who had no connection with the meeting.

In this essay I will merely note the coincidence of the English and American names, and so call up natural associations. The change from "burn" to "bourne" in the last syllable would seem to indicate a reaching out to England in a later time, though the English name is spelled in different ways.

My book, "The York Road, Old and New, Fox Chase and Bustleton," is a royal octavo of over 500 pages, illustrated, which cost me much toil, and tells a great deal about this region. In the few minutes given me I may but draw on its stores, adding matter to enliven the narrative, and widening a little the area of Ashbourne to include the immediate neighborhood.

The excellent Shoemaker family rises before us, coming from Cresheim in the Palatinate on the German Rhine in A. D. 1682. The minister among Friends William Ames and others had visited Germany, and brought this family into his religious connection, and Penn is said to have visited their town. Professor Seidensticker journeyed thither, and I gave the account from him in my continuation of Townsend Ward's History of Germantown. The late genial Robert Shoemaker kindly wrote to aid my work in this region, and I will quote some of his information, adding my own comments.

Toby Leech was an interesting character. Bean's History of Montgomery gives the supposition that he named Cheltenham, but there are other theories. He lived where the fork factory of Myers & Ervien rose at a later day. He held 604 acres of land, and a grist-mill and tannery. He died in 1726, aged 74. His wife Hester died the preceding August, and the faithful pair are buried under one gravestone in Trinity Episcopal Church yard, Oxford, where the worthy English yeoman worshiped God in Christ as his ancestors had done for centuries.

Bosler's Mill was a Shoemaker property.

A mill in early days was a place of great necessity and importance. The farmers would come long distances on horseback, and we can see them in imagination waiting hours, perhaps into the night, for their turns, chatting about their families and crops, and disturbances with the mother country, and their friends in the homeland.

The rushing trolley kills much romance, and keeps us in a perpetual nervous haste. Perhaps the ancients enjoyed their quiet life more than we do our noisy fuss and bustle.

A former toll-gate keeper, Amos Mitchell, must not be forgotten, and in the departure of the toll-gate we lose a striking picture. His wife Betsy was noted for her gingerbread, which good boys could receive.

Shoemaker's store held almost everything "from a needle to an anchor," and Robert Shoemaker, who afterward dealt so largely in drugs, here remarks that "Senna and manna, worm tea and jalap" were remembered by him in his delicate youth when "many a bitter dose" was swallowed by the child "from that old shop." "Calomel, castor oil and rhubarb" were popular remedies.

Richard Martin was a tanner and farmer, and lived at the corner of York road and Church road. Church road was so called because it ran between the old churches of St. Thomas, Whitemarsh, and Trinity Church, Oxford. We can see in our mind's eye the missionaries of the English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts riding along this road on their faithful steeds in winter's snow, and under summer's sun.

The indefatigable local historian, Mrs. Alice Morse Earle, in "Home Life in Colonial Days," states that while in old times the trees blazed, when the bark was chopped off, showed the marks standing out "clear and white in the dark shadows of the forests, like welcome guideposts, showing the traveler his way. In Maryland roads turning off to a church were marked by slips or blazes cut near the ground."

Martin's accounts have quaint entries, as "Richard Thomas, pair shoes for his negro, 6d." One charge is to the "Harness-maker in 3d street, near the pump."

The Dobbins tract was bought of John Brock, a former Philadelphia merchant, and he had purchased it from the heirs of Samuel T. Leech, a descendant of Toby Leech.

The Rorer family owned the Sharpless property in old time.

The hedges, walls, trees and roads of Cheltenham remind English people, and American visitors to England, of that fair land.

The Shoemaker Burying Ground, which has been described by Thomas H. Shoemaker, contains those who left the old land for the new; but it took generations to improve the region. Messrs. Elkins, Widener and W. T. B. Roberts have had much to do with this development.

In Shoemakertown, now Ogontz, about 1825, Mary S. Hallowell taught a school. She afterward became Mrs. Isaac Lippincott, of Moorestown, N. J., and was an amiable minister among Friends. Abington Friends' School was long conducted in the simple style of early days. Now a large boarding school for both sexes has arisen, and Cheltenham Military Academy and Ogontz School for Young Ladies show the advance in education. Miss Rachel S. Carr, in A. D. 1861, commenced a school on Cheltenham Hills. She was a strong and useful Christian character, and died in 1884, in her 80th year, and was buried in St. Paul's churchyard, Cheltenham.

Through this region in old time ran the stages to New York. In modern times Edward M. Davis, Morris L. Hallowell, John W. Thomas, Frederick Fraley and others combined to buy about a thousand acres of Quaker farms, and divided them, and remodelled the buildings, and built new houses. After the war closed more progress was seen.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church owes its organization to Jay Cooke, John W. Thomas, Robert Shoemaker, Frederick Fraley and others, mostly from St. Paul's Church, in 3d street, under the rectorship of the saintly man and prince of children's preachers, the devoted Richard Newton. The first rector, the faithful Robert J. Parvin, was lost in a steamboat burned on the Ohio river. His successor, the Rev. E. W. Appleton, had

a long rectorship, and is now rector emeritus, while the Rev. J. Thompson Cole is the acting rector.

When the negro camp was at Cheltenham at least 10,000 soldiers were in it, and the rector and lay members supplied their religious needs. The influence of the well-known Lucretia and James Mott, and their son-in-law, E. M. Davis, probably brought the camp hither. I well recall seeing Mrs. Mott control an audience in New York city who clamored to hear Wendell Phillips before his turn to speak. When at last he began he was hissed by some, but fearlessly went on until the whole audience were at his feet and begged him to continue longer. It was a noble triumph of oratory.

Jay Cooke's palatial home, Ogontz, has been succeeded by the splendid houses of Messrs. Elkins and Widener. Messrs. Stetson, and Roelofs, and Dell Noblett were among the newcomers. The fine houses of Mr. John B. Stetson and his son-in-law, Henry H. Roelofs, are pleasantly situated on the side of the York road. The late Pemberton Hutchinson's old-fashioned mansion, Sunnyside, on Church road, is now the residence of his son, Pemberton S. Hutchinson, Esq., President of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society.

The Presbyterian Church was started in A. D. 1878, Charles S. Luther and Thomas C. Van Horn being Elders. In 1880 the Rev. J. W. Kirk became pastor. In 1882 the Rev. Richard Montgomery, now with us, a graduate of Princeton Seminary and the University of Pennsylvania, entered on this, his first regular charge. May he long abide in it.

Colonel Samuel Miles, a revolutionary soldier, lived near Cheltenham village. He had a slitting-mill, and he laid out Milesboro on his land.

The Rev. Robert Collyer came from England here as a blacksmith. He walked from Philadelphia to Shoemaker-town seeking work, which he found in Charles Hammond's axe factory. He was a local preacher of the Methodist Church at Milestown, and debated in literary meetings at Shoemaker-town, being admired for his ready speech. He went hence to Chicago, and in his church there had the anvil he used in England. He has been styled "the blacksmith preacher." In a

recent visit to England he said he had been looking for the boy he left there, that was himself. I presume he thinks at times of the young blacksmith he left at Cheltenham, when he entered on his new life, and in the midst of public cares he may long sometimes to taste again the quiet of mechanical life.

We now turn to the English Ashbourne in Derbyshire.

I found in the Astor Library in New York the other day the volume "Bygone Derbyshire," by Williams Andrews, which contains the following derivation of Derby, the Deoraby of the Danes, which is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. It is compounded of *deor*, an animal, a wild beast, a deer, and the Scandinavian *by*, an abode, habitation, and ultimately a village. The word Derby means an abode of wild animals, or deer. "By" is Danish, and probably the Danish would be Dyrby, or Dyreby, and Deoraby would be the Saxon form.

In the Rev. Dr. James S. Stone's "Woods and Dales of Derbyshire," bourne is derived from a word meaning water, and ash is given as a corruption of Uisce and Trce also signifying water, as the river Avon is a repetition, for Avon is a river. Bourne also means a boundary, so this might be a brook boundary. The stream Schoo, or Henmore, a little tributary of the river Dove, flows through the town.

Andrews states that the Pretender Charles Edward crossed the line from Staffordshire into Derbyshire at Ashbourne, December 3d. Here he halted, and the Prince baited at the "Three Horse Shoes," and was proclaimed at the Market Cross. Derby was occupied the next day.

The Green Man and Black's Head Hotel is where Mistress Killingsly, a civil gentlewoman, gave Boswell a card soliciting his aid to secure guests for her hotel.

George Eliot called the church at Ashbourne the finest parish church in the kingdom. There was a church here at the Domesday Survey in A. D. 1086.

The house of entertainment, "Peverel of the Peak," is near this village.

The ballad, "The Driving of the Deer," in which the Norman Lord Peverel is represented as ready to slay the Saxon Lord Bruno for slaying deer which each claims, and the aid of

Payne Peverel, Lord of Whittington, and brother of the Norman lord, to make peace, shows the importance of hunting rights in Derbyshire.

I have spoken of the measure of a carucate of land in this district. This was as much land as could be cultivated with one caruca or plough. The word caruca is Mediæval Latin. The amount was usually about 100 acres, but the quantity varied according to the soil and the mode of agriculture.

In ancient English village communities four oxen were yoked abreast, one ox trod on the tilled surface, another in the furrow, and two on stubble, or white land. The driver held the cattle by halters, seeing that each beast had equal share in work.

According to Glover & Nahle's History of the County of Derby, Ashbourn is a market town of neat appearance, and the name includes a township in Wirksworth Hundred. It is a town of importance, and the name of the Deanery of Ashbourn is derived from it. It is 139 miles from London. The Manchester mail coaches used to run through here, and stages from London to the north of Scotland.

The town is situated in a low valley, and the small river Schoo or Henmore, which natives call Compton Brook, runs through the valley.

The entrance from Derby is descending, and displays a fine view of the town and a romantic country. A steep ridge is the seat of many houses, shaded by wood, mainly of red brick, sheltered from winds appearing secure, and seemingly suited to social happiness. There is a vicarage and chapeling in the parish.

Agriculture, trade and professions employ the townspeople, and lace-work has engaged the deft hands of females. There have been many fairs held in this good market town, with its horse sales and cow sales and wool sales. Cheese, sheep and pigs here found a market. The market existed before A. D. 1296, and was held on Saturday. There used to be two fairs, each holding three days, at the feasts of St. Oswald and St. John the Baptist. Five fairs are named in Charles the First's charter.

Ashbourn was a royal burg long before the days of Edward the Sixth.

There was a workhouse and a house of correction, a grammar school, which was free, and an endowed English school to accommodate thirty boys, and as many girls.

Sir William Boothby was lord of the manor. He received tolls from markets and fairs, and appointed inspectors of measures and weights.

In A. D. 1644 the royalists and the parliament men fought a battle here, in which the royal party suffered defeat. In August, A. D. 1645, King Charles attended divine service at Ashbourn Church: he had an army of about 3000, and marched to Doncaster through the Peak of Derbyshire.

Ten years later, the Pretender, Charles Stuart, twice marched his army through Ashbourn, the first time in approaching Derby, and the last in retreating to Scotland, when he and his troops possessed themselves of Ashbourn Hall. The bed on which the Prince slept was preserved.

Three carucates of land were taxed in Ashbourn, land to three ploughs. The church had one carucate of land.

Ashbourn Hall is a stately, baronial mansion, one portion of the house being higher than the other. Its windows overlook a little pond or lake, and cattle graze on the meadow. The rural pictured scene is similar to the country about us around the Old York road.

The ancient, noble Colrairie family lived for generations in Ashbourn. One of them married Cunred, the daughter of William the Conqueror, having first entered England with that victorious monarch; and a female of this line married first the Rev. Nathaniel Napletoft, and afterward the Bishop of Cork and Ross.

A gothic church, called in the region "the Pride of the Peak," in the form of a cross, with a square tower and spire, may remind us of St. Paul's, Cheltenham. It is probable that this dates back to the thirteenth century of the Christian era, as Patishull, Bishop of Coventry, dedicated it to St. Oswald in A. D. 1241. An avenue of lime trees leads to the church. Various Christian inscriptions and poems are in the church

commemorating clergy and laity, especially the ancient and noble Boothby family. A Free Grammar School and Cooper's and other endowed Almshouses bless the town. Christopher Pegg's almshouses are noteworthy.

At one time French prisoners were stationed here.

The hotels are called Green Man, White Hart and Wheat Sheaf. The village overlooks the valley of the Dove river, a mile and a half away; and from this point travelers often start to explore the scenery of lovely Dove Dale.

Ashbourne was a stronghold of football from ancient times, but law stopped it years ago, through fear of bodily harm, though with strong opposition.

A song was sung, and it is believed written by Mr. Fawcett, the comedian, at the Ashbourne theatre in 1821, from which I quote:

"I'll sing you a song of a neat little place,
Top full of good humor and beauty and grace;
Where coaches are rolling by day and by night,
And in playing at Foot-Ball the people delight,

"Where health and good humor do always abound,
And hospitality's cup flows freely around,
Where friendship and harmony are to be found,
In the neat little town of Ashborne.

"Shrove Tuesday, you know, is always the day,
When pancake's the prelude, and Foot-Ball's the play,
Where upwards and downwards men ready for fun,
Like the French at the battle of Waterloo run.

* * * * *

"The Ball is turned up, and the Bull Ring's the place,
And as fierce as a bull-dog's is every man's face;
Whilst kicking and shouting and howling they run,
Until every stitch in the Ball comes undone.

"There's Faulkner and Smith, Bodge Hand and some more,
Who hide it and hug it and kick it so sore,
And deserve a good whopping at every man's door
In the neat little town of Ashborne.

"If they get to the Park the upwards men shout
And think all the downwards men put to rout,
But a right about face they soon have to learn,
And the upwards men shout and huzza in their turn."

This lively song is in Jewitt's collection, "Ballads and Songs of Derbyshire," in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

In the beautiful illustrated volume "English Pictures Drawn with Pen and Pencil," by the Rev. Drs. Manning and Green, Ashbourne is called "a quiet, pretty little town." The insignia combined oddly "the fierce Saracen, the thick-lipped negro, the English huntsman in his coat of Lincoln green."

Near here was "the identical Happy Valley of Rasselas, where he found a charming little village, with schoolhouse and drinking fountain, park and hall and church, and every cottage a picture."

In John Pendleton's History of Derbyshire we read that John Wesley preached from the steps on the east side of the market-place.

Its substantial red buildings, ancient streets and easy going residents still allure a quiet lover of antiquity. The town lies "in the very centre of England."

Chantrey designed his celebrated two sleeping children from the statue of Penelope, a little girl whose glorious remembrance in white marble is in the Ashbourne Church. She was the daughter of Sir Brooke Boothby.

Dr. Johnson's schoolfellow, the Rev. Dr. Taylor, used to welcome the great lexicographer and author to this place.

Canning humorously wrote:

"So down thy slope romantic Ashbourne glides
The Derby Dilly, carrying six insides."

Tom Moore's cottage was at Mayfield, and Pendleton notes that the song

"Those evening bells"

was suggested by the sweet chimes of Ashbourne Church.

The poem by my friend, the late William H. Rhawn, "The Chimes of Cheltenham," in reference to St. Paul's Church, makes a striking coincidence. I have quoted a portion of the sweet verses in my book on "The York Road."

Mrs. John W. Thomas presented the chime in memory of her husband and two daughters. The sweet bells ring for

Christmas joy and glad weddings, and toll for sad funerals. I add a few of Mr. Rhawn's lines from the *Germantown Telegraph*:

"Hark! What sweet distant melodies
Fill the soft air of Sunday morn!
And charm the ear with harmonies,
Like dulcet notes of mellow horn?
• They are the chimes of Cheltenham!

* * * * *

"May heaven's music chime the lay,
That whispers to the widowed heart,
Of blessed Resurrection Day;
And of a meeting ne'er to part,
Chime Easter bells of Cheltenham!"

As I had stated from some unremembered authority that Ashbourne was said to be from Lord Ashbourne's seat in Ireland, I will give from Burke's Peerage his history, only as a matter of interesting association with the name.

Baron Ashbourne (Edward Gibson) Ashbourne, County Meath, in United Kingdom, Lord High Chancellor of Ireland, born A. D. 1837. Graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Attorney General for Ireland from 1877 to 1880. M. P. from Dublin University from 1875 to his elevation to the peerage in 1885, when constituted Lord High Chancellor of Ireland. His coat of arms contained a female figure representing Justice, and the crest bore a pelican on a bank of reeds in her piety. The pelican was supposed to tear her breast open to feed her young with her blood, and was made an emblem of redemption through Christ's sufferings. It is often placed above the cross.

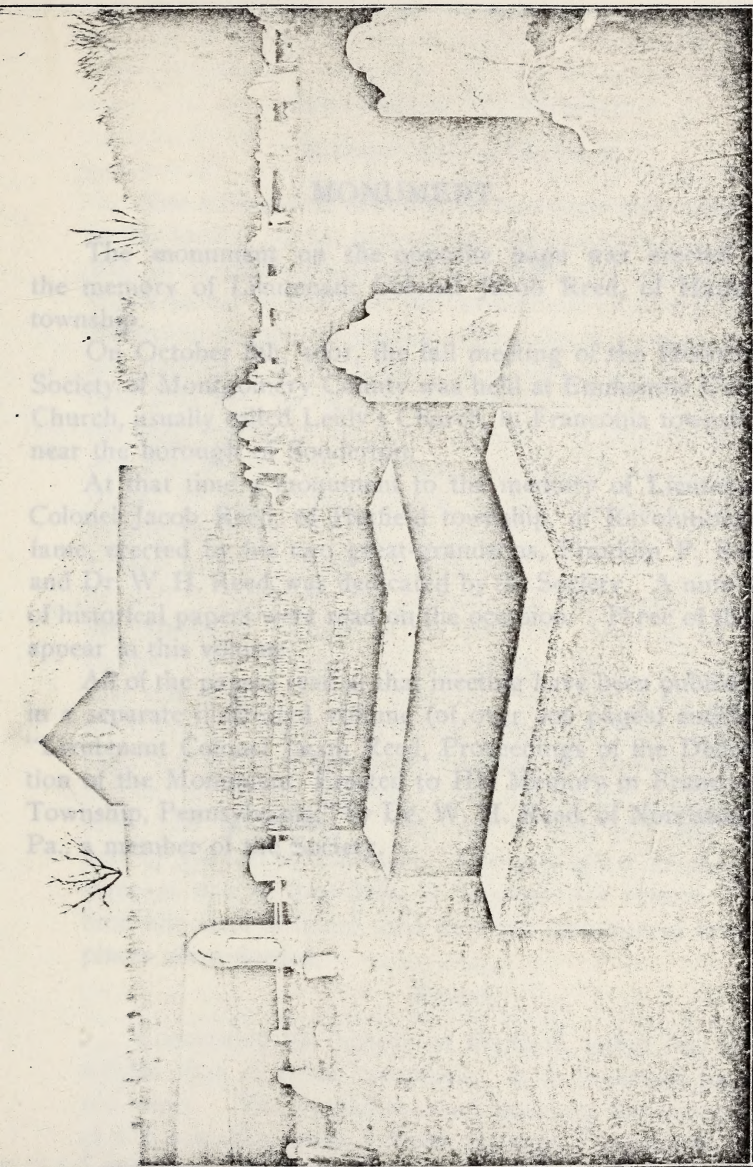
Our rambles among English and American verdant fields this autumn day may well close with lines from the English poet George Wither in "Songs and Hymns of the Church," praising our Father's God for all these blessings:

"What pleasant groves, what goodly fields!
How fruitful hills and dales have we!
How sweet an air our climate yields!
How stored with flocks and herds are we!

* * * * *

"So in the sweet refreshing shade
Of Thy protection sitting down,
The gracious favours we have had,
'Relate we will to Thy renown."

[Read before Historical Society of Montgomery County, at Ashbourne,
October 6, 1900.]



MONUMENT OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JACOB REED
DEDICATED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OCT. 8, 1901

MONUMENT.

The monument on the opposite page was erected to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Reed, of Hatfield township.

On October 8th, 1901, the fall meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County was held at Emmanuel Union Church, usually called Leidy's Church, in Franconia township, near the borough of Souderton.

At that time a monument to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Reed, of Hatfield township, of Revolutionary fame, erected by his two great-grandsons, Franklin P. Reed and Dr. W. H. Reed, was dedicated by the Society. A number of historical papers were read on the occasion. Three of them appear in this volume.

All of the papers read at that meeting have been published in a separate illustrated volume (of over 200 pages) entitled, "Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Reed, Proceedings of the Dedication of the Monument, Erected to His Memory in Franconia Township, Pennsylvania," by Dr. W. H. Reed, of Norristown, Pa., a member of the Society.

HATFIELD TOWNSHIP.

By Edward Mathews, Lansdale, Pa.

For a historical sketch to be read upon this occasion, and in this locality, it was deemed not inappropriate that the township of Hatfield should be the theme. Its confines lie near where to-day is gathered the Montgomery County Historical Society in its annual meeting. This sketch must be brief, and not considered to be inclusive of all that might be said. Hatfield township, as regards its surface, is remarkable as being the most level in Montgomery county. It is traversed by several streams, but they nowhere run through any great depressions. In early times several extensive portions were aptly denominated the "Plains" by people accustomed to the more uneven surface of their own localities. This plane surface may be said to constitute the character of the country, except in the immediate vicinity of the streams. Most of its surface, however, is not a dead level, but gently rolling. On the northeast side is quite a deep depression covering a few acres near the Franconia border and within a mile of Leidy's Church. The eastern corner is at the lowest elevation above sea level. From thence the surface gradually rises toward the southwest, then west and northwest. This rise is from 300 feet at Colmar to 350 feet at Lansdale. The geological structure is the same as that of four-fifths of Montgomery county. Neither lime nor sand is found, and they are transported from other places when needed.

ROADS.

Concerning the history of Hatfield, rather less has been written than of other townships. It is traversed by several old roads. The Bethlehem road traverses the eastern corner of the township from Colmar through Trewigtown to Line Lexington. It was opened for travel in 1735, and macadam-

ized in 1806. The county line road, separating from New Britain and Hilltown, was opened in this portion in 1752. The Cowpath is an old and notable highway. It runs through the whole length of the township, dividing it into two equal portions. Its quaint name arose from the fact that the cattle of the early Welsh settlers were wont to travel on its lines through the forest to pasture. The Germans either translated the English name into their own language or called it the Moyer road, from the name of an early settler of that name. It is also termed the Hatfield road. The Forty-foot road belongs to Towamencin as well as Hatfield. It was opened soon after 1760, joining the Cowpath at South Hatfield.

SCHOOLS.

Long before the inauguration of the public school system, there were several notable school houses in Hatfield, now of historical importance. Between 1760 and 1769 the Menonites established a school in the southern part of the township. It stood within the confines of their present cemetery, and near their present place of worship. Within a mile of where we are now gathered a school house was built in 1794, near the Franconia border, and near the northern corner of the township. This house existed until 1849. Another house was built in 1805 in the central part of the township. The school of greatest historical importance was the result of a legacy left by the will of John Jenkins, made in 1762. The house then erected was in the eastern part of the township, within a mile of Colmar. In it were taught many generations of pupils, and the structure remained in existence as late as 1880.

CHURCHES.

As to early organizations, the Welsh settlers were mostly Baptists, with a few Quakers. The Germans were predominantly Mennonites and Dunkards, with a few Reformed and Lutherans. In early times the township was remarkably destitute of places of worship. This was not because the people were irreligious, but because it suited them best to attend

churches in surrounding townships. The Baptists went to Montgomery and Hilltown; the Quakers to Gwynedd. The Reformed and Lutheran to Towamencin, Hilltown and Franconia. In fact there is but one historic church—that of the Plain Meetinghouse. This was organized just previous to the Revolution, in 1774, with David Ruth and David Oberholtzer as preachers and John Wireman deacon. The lot whereon the church stood had been sold to the Mennonites by Henry Fry, some time between 1760 and 1769. There have been four houses of worship in succession. The present and large house was built in 1867. A partial list of family names in the graveyard includes those of Boorse, Benner, Cassel, Conner, Clemmer, Davis, Gross, Godshalk, Heder, Heckler, Kindig, Krupp, Kulp, Moyer, Rittenhouse, Ruth, Reed, Stauffer, Wismer, Wagner, Wireman and Young.

The first Dunkard or Brethren Church was erected near the Cowpath, a mile from Orvilla, in 1851. Jacob Riener, of saintly memory, was the first preacher. The first Evangelical church was built near Orvilla station, in 1854.

TAVERNS.

In the olden time of much wagon and horseback travel, public houses in plenty existed for the accommodation of wayfarers. There was never any lack of food or drink. Among the old taverns were the Farmers' and Drovers' Hotel, at Trewigtown. This was opened soon after 1750 by Henry Loch, a German blacksmith. He was sold out by the sheriff in 1770, and George Sheive was the owner during the days of the Revolution and down till 1795. It was the Snare tavern for thirty-seven years, till Jacob Trewig bought it in 1832 and gave name to the village. What was known as the Shellenberger tavern also existed in Trewigtown for a considerable period after 1795. What was known as the Lower tavern in Hatfield borough was first opened by John Bucheimer, in 1825. One of its notable landlords was Philip Zieber, from 1833 till 1850. What was known as the Snare tavern, on the Cowpath, was opened in 1825 by Peter Connor. It was closed about 1863. The Hocker tavern, on the county line, was opened by Martin

Hocker, who came from Whitemarsh, in 1814. He became wealthy and was a Justice of the Peace. His death occurred in 1852. From him the village was named, and so we have Hockertown to-day.

SETTLERS.

The formation of Hatfield township was between the years of 1741 and 1745. Before that time it was vaguely termed "the parts adjacent to Montgomery and Franconia." In one deed the writer has seen it was called "Harley township," from Thomas Harley, an extensive land owner of its eastern portion from 1682 to 1702. It was named from a village in Hartfordshire, England. The early settlers of the township may be classed in two divisions—Welsh and Germans. There were, however, a few English and probably some of Huguenot, French and Hollander lineage. The Welsh occupied the southeast side of the township. Except at the very first, they were always a minority of the people. In a tax list made in 1792, of the 106 names, all but 14 betray German origin. Of the present inhabitants, those not of German ancestry are quite as numerous to-day as a century ago. The names of these Welsh and English families, who were early settlers, include those of Jenkins, Hoxworth, Lewis, Thomas, Clayton, Wright, Williams, Davis, Wells, Evans and Morgan. Of names mostly German, we find those of Rosenberger, Fuhrman, Hendricks, Johnson, Godshalk, Oberholtzer, Hoffman, Ruth, Lukens, Shipe, Shooter, Wireman, Funk, Lapp, Musselman, Huntsberger, Frey, Convor, Ulrich, Race, Shellengberger, Kunkle and Reed.

The most notable figures of Hatfield in the Revolutionary struggle were Lieutenant Colonel Reed and his son Captain Philip Reed. The latter was commander of the township military company. Concerning these and their careers they will be discoursed more at length in another paper to-day. In the militia company were enrolled 55 members. The Wright family, which in Colonial times held a plantation in the southern part of the township, a mile from Lansdale, had their full share in the history of their locality during this troublesome

period of the Revolution. The sons of John Wright, Jonathan and John, gave their adhesion to the British cause. The farm of John Wright, Jr., was confiscated in consequence and sold in 1781 to Owen Faries, of Germantown. This was a place of 50 acres. The farm of Jonathan Wright, comprising 101 acres, was also confiscated. Since that time the family name has disappeared from the township. Thomas Stalford married a daughter of the first John Wright and held part of his plantation. The Stalford ownership ended about 1820.

The Fries Rebellion of 1799 has only a very indirect connection with the annals of Hatfield. Its people were not connected with it, and cared no more about it than did those of other townships in this region. John Fries, its leader, was indeed born in Hatfield, near Lansdale, but never lived here after childhood. His father was not a land holder. None of the historians who have written so voluminously about the insurrection he led against the National Government, give us even the name of his father, his employment, or the place where he lived when his son, John Fries, was born in 1750.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County at Leidy's Church,
October 8, 1901.

printed in this country during the Colonial period. I make mention of this to show that many of those buried in the neighborhood were men of ability and learning, and who lived and died here under a variety of circumstances and at a time when it

PRIVATE BURYING GROUNDS OF FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP.

By John D. Souder, Franconia.

In the early times it was customary among the leading families to bury the dead on the farm, on a spot set aside for this purpose. In the course of time neighbors brought their dead for burial to these private grounds. A few of these graveyards are still maintained in this township; others are neglected and overgrown with brambles and bushes, and some have relapsed into their former uses as fields for farming, and now all traces of them are lost.

The private burying grounds of Franconia that have been in existence and maintained to the present day are Delp's, Harley's and Fuhrman's. One on the farm formerly owned by Henry Musselman and another on the former farm owned by William Souder have entirely disappeared—the plough has removed all trace of them.

Delp's burying ground located in the northwestern part of the township is beyond doubt the oldest. It is here that Christian Funk, son of Heinrich Funk, is buried. Henry Funk emigrated to America and settled at Indian Creek in 1719. They were the first settlers in this section. It is said they lived several years alone in this township. They were prominent and well-educated people; Heinrich, Christian and Jacob were preachers in the Mennonite church, and organized the Franconia and Salford congregations. They also built the first mill on the banks of the Indian Creek. It is now owned by John Clemens and known as the "Clemens" mill.

It was this Heinrich Funk with Dillman Kolb who was appointed by the Mennonite Church to supervise the translation from Dutch to German and cause to be printed Van-Bracht's "Martyr Mirror," a folio of 1,514 pages, at Ephrata, Lancaster county, and it was the largest work of its character

printed in this country during the Colonial period. I make mention of this to show that many of those buried in the neighborhood were men of ability and learning, and who lived and died here under adverse circumstances and at a time when it tried men's souls and consciences.

On the headstones marking graves in Delp's burial ground we find these family names: Yoder, Moyer, Kratz, Booz, Landis, Funk, Delp, Kline, Godshall, Cassell and others; quite a few are recent burials. In 1811 there was a split from the introduction of a schism in the Mennonite Church, and a portion withdrew known as "Herrites." These erected for themselves a small one-story stone meeting house, located near this graveyard, which necessarily helped to increase the burials at this place. By 1850 the Herrites were so reduced in membership that thereafter the church building erected by them was used as a school-house. This old graveyard is certainly an object of interest. It is about one-half acre in size, and enclosed with a substantial fence; the graves and yard are well kept to the present day, which has been a credit to the succeeding generations for this manifestation of interest in this sacred spot—the last resting place of their forefathers.

Harley's burying ground, located in the southwestern part of the township, near the Souderton and Harleysville turnpike, was commenced by Rudolph Harley, in 1746. In this sacred spot we find the names of Harley, Reiff, Kline, Young, Heckler, Price, Markley, Moyer, Kurtz, Freed, Walter, Kindig, Hartman, Frederick, Sheuck, Landis, Stauffer, Schissler and others.

On a recent visit we copied the following: M. H., 1743; A. H., 1757; H. K., 1783; B. H., 1791; A. H., 1749; I. O. H., 1793; I. H., 1795; H. S., 1794; N. S., 1783; A. S., 1802. Among the aged buried here are Jacob Stauffer, 76 years; Jacob Stauffer, 81 years; John S. Harley, 79 years; Samuel Harley, 81 years; Samuel Harley, 82 years; Samuel Johnson, 81 years. The graveyard is not large, but by its appearance it seems as if many have been buried here. The tombstones are of various sizes, many bearing no inscription at all. There is about an acre of ground in the enclosure, surrounded by a substantial

fence. Trees of oak, hickory and sassafras of large size have grown up in the yard, all of which appear to be old. In 1843 the Dunkers built a frame structure in this graveyard for church purposes, in which they worshipped at intervals ever since, and it is from this interest that this graveyard has been kept in such excellent order and state of preservation.

Fuhrman's graveyard is the largest of the kind in the township, and I am sorry to record its unfortunate fate. It is located on the farm formerly owned by Henry D. Wile, now owned by F. K. Bergey, and its location is but several paces southwest of the Indian Creek Reformed Church. Interments have been made here as early as 1730, and it was used for this purpose as late as 1790. It is estimated that during this period from one hundred and fifty to two hundred bodies were buried here. The headstones were common field stones, and quite a number had names, initials and dates on them. On our visit in 1880 we copied the following: "In memory of George Ludwig Hange, died October 26th, 1769; aged 73 years." The rest of the stones having initials and dates only, as, I. H. T., 1766; S. B. H., 1747; C. H. T., 1790; I. F. M., 1763; A. D., 1758; E. H., 1788; M. L., 1754; F. M., 1760; K. M., 1750. The remaining stones that had marks or inscriptions on them were not plain enough to be read—these were blurred and crumbled with rust and age.

The farm on which this unfortunate graveyard was located has since changed hands, and year after year the plowman has been encroaching further and further, until now it has almost disappeared. In 1880, when I copied the foregoing inscriptions, I predicted it would not be long hence when this entire graveyard would be under cultivation, and I am here to-day, sadly to say, to verify my prophecy. It was on a recent visit to this spot for the final preparation of this paper for this occasion I learned that all of the headstones had gone, and the existence of the place can scarcely be found. I was told that some of the headstones had gone to the wash gullies, and are now covered over with earth, which some day might again be revealed as mementoes of by-gone days. The fate of this graveyard teaches us a humiliating lesson of what human aya-

rice will do. Had it not been the last resting place of our beloved forefathers—the pioneers of our township—this desecration of the sanctity of these graves would not now be so appealing to our and their kindred's hearts.

Twenty years ago when I visited this burial ground and noticing the rapid approach of dissolution of this sacred place, a feeling of sadness overcame me at its dreadful condition, and I dedicated these lines with sorrow and regret:

Along the lonely Indian Creek
My wandering footsteps led,
The moss was thick beneath my feet,
The winds moaned o'er my head.
Traces of an old grave yard
Were still plainly to be seen
The remains of many weary pilgrim
Lie here in peace, I ween.

The bramble bush and the weed
Grew thickly o'er the mound,
The head and footstone with age
Had crumbled to the ground.
No fragrant flower planted here;
No loved ones know more the place;
Nor marble slabs or granite rare
These lonely mounds do grace.

I raised a headstone; it broke with age;
This vision to me did appear—
They are—the settlers of our land,
Known as "Franconia's Pioneer."
All rest was blurred—rust and age
For many years here has held her sway;
Their fame though on history's page
Remains, and will not fade away.

Flow on, proud Indian Creek, flow on,
Through thy picturesque rocky glen;
Above thee in shadows alone
Sleep brave and undaunted men.
No brutal foes, nor bloody wars,
Our Christian people now do fear,
For thou hast our pathway smoothed—
Thou noble "Franconia Pioneer."

At that time this spot was thickly covered with trees and undergrowth. It was located some distance from a public road, and to reach it meant a long walk across cultivated fields. The burial ground was on an elevation, affording a magnificent

view of the surrounding country, with the picturesque Indian Creek and its beautiful valley at its foot.

In these private burying grounds of Franconia township the bodies of hundreds of pioneer Christian settlers are resting, and some of these now, for the want of care, have entirely disappeared beyond all knowledge and vestige.

These early settlers, it is said, fled from their native country on account of religious persecution. They came to America, the asylum of the oppressed and persecuted. Nothing we revere more, associated with the early history of our country, than the fact of our progenitors immigrating to America, where they could without fear or molestation enjoy the right to worship God according to their accepted belief. For this privilege and liberty they fled their native country, leaving friends and family ties behind, to cross the wide ocean and endure its hardships, dwell in a land without civilization and inhabited by savages and wild beasts. Can it now be that the succeeding generations are so rude and thoughtless as to lay waste the silent and sacred tombs of these beloved ones? I feel it a sense of duty, and so should every liberty-loving individual, that these last resting places be preserved as a perpetual regard and respect to our forefathers.

The Good Book says: "Remove ye not the old landmarks." To-day we come together and say, "Remove ye not the grave marks of our forefathers; but mark them, preserve them, and maintain them."

We may here appropriately quote the lines of Thomas Gray:

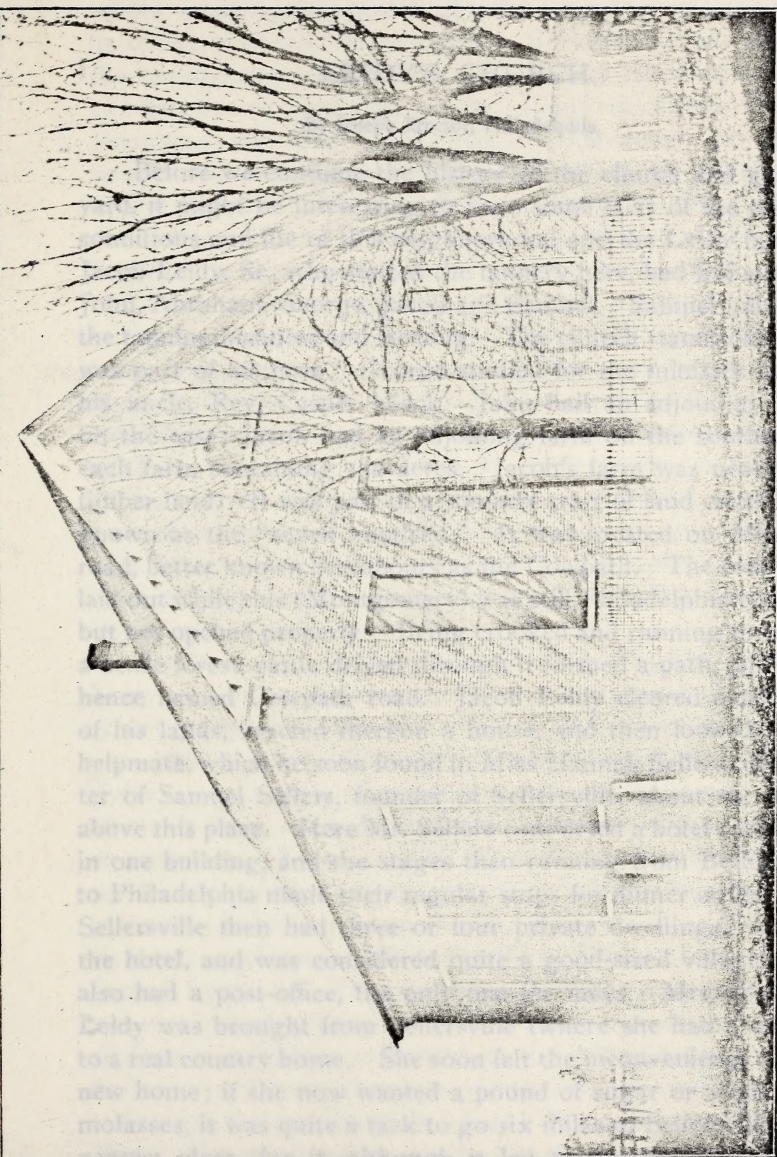
Beneath these rugged elms, that yew tree's shade,
Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,
Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the country sleep.

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,
Or wake to ecstasy the living lyre.

Yet even these bones from insult to protect,
Some frail memorial, still erected nigh,
With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture decked,
Implore the passing tribute of a sigh.

Their names, their years, spelt by the unlettered muse,
The place of fame and eulogy supply,
And many a holy text around he strews,
To teach the rustic moralist to die.

- [Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County at Leidy's Church,
October 8, 1901.]



EMMANUEL (LEIDY'S) CHURCH, BUILT IN 1858

LEIDY'S CHURCH.

By Joseph Proctor, Philadelphia.

Before we continue the history of the church and graveyard, it might be interesting to have some facts of the earlier conditions and life of this neighborhood and the Leidy family. Jacob Leidy, Sr., who started the tannery here, had five sons—John, Abraham, George, Jacob and Samuel. Samuel followed the tanning business and farming. The church stands on what was part of his farm. George studied for the ministry under his uncle, Rev. Casper Wack. John had an adjoining farm on the east; Jacob had an adjoining farm on the southwest; each farm containing 150 acres. Jacob's farm was nearly all timber land. It was part of a 700-acre tract of land commonly known as the "seven hundred." It was located on Moyer's road, better known hereabouts as the Cowpath. The road was laid out while this (Montgomery) was still Philadelphia county, but not opened properly. Being crooked and running through a dense forest, cattle driven through it formed a path, and was hence named Cowpath road. Jacob Leidy cleared a portion of his lands, erected thereon a house, and then looked for a helpmate, which he soon found in Miss Hannah Sellers, daughter of Samuel Sellers, founder of Sellersville, about six miles above this place. Here Mr. Sellers conducted a hotel and store in one building, and the stages then running from Bethlehem to Philadelphia made their regular stops for dinner at this inn. Sellersville then had three or four private dwellings, besides the hotel, and was considered quite a good-sized village. It also had a post-office, the only one for miles. Mrs. (Sellers) Leidy was brought from Sellersville (where she had a piano) to a real country home. She soon felt the inconvenience of her new home; if she now wanted a pound of sugar or a quart of molasses, it was quite a task to go six miles to Sellersville, the nearest place, for it, although it led to the parental home.

Jacob Leidy and wife soon concluded to open a store at their home on yonder hill, which they did, and it was the only store within a radius of a number of miles for many years, and was in reality a typical country store. Business did not warrant the employment of a clerk, so if a customer called for a pound of sugar or anything else, and Mr. Leidy was out in the field ploughing, and Mrs. Leidy preparing her dough for baking bread, some one had to call Mr. Leidy from the field to wait on the customer. These are facts as related by Mrs. Leidy to the writer. In later years a hotel and store were started at Hatfield, then known as Zieber's hotel, on the Cowpath.

First, we must remember, at that time we had no railroad in this locality (railroad was opened in 1856). Lansdale then had a few scattered farm houses; Hatfield two or three dwellings, besides the store and hotel; Souderton had several scattered farm-houses, and Henry Souder had a lumber yard—the stock he kept was replenished by teams hauling it from the Delaware river, about twenty miles away; there was no store or post-office; except the lumber, no business of any kind. At Telford there were simply a few scattered farm-houses and no store or hotel; hence we see the progress the railroad has made in this section of the country.

In the spring of 1854 we started the first Sunday school at Leidy's Church, using the school-house and chapel which stood in the graveyard. This was the first day-school in this section of the country. The seed sown then is still bearing fruit, and we pray that it may continue for ages to come. Soon after this there was a demand here for more religious services or preaching. To accomplish this a church was needed. So the trustees of the burying ground and others formed an organization to build a union church, which was erected in 1858 on this tract of land, and was bought of Thomas Leidy, son of Samuel Leidy, Sr. The building cost twenty-six hundred dollars, not including labor and delivering of material, which was all done by neighbors and members of the church, and in which the writer took part, then but a young man. The building committee was Samuel Leidy, Sr., Josiah W. Leidy and Benjamin Cope. The corner-stone was laid in the spring of 1858; was

dedicated in the fall, on which occasion the Rev. B. S. Schneck, D. D., preached the principal sermon, he being generally known as the long-legged D. D. Soon after this a church organization was effected by the Rev. P. S. Fisher, then pastor of the Tohickon charge, composed of Tohickon, Indian Creek and Trumbauresville churches. Rev. Fisher then supplied this church for a number of years in the afternoon every three weeks. Soon after this a church was built at Sellersville, and one at Bridgeton, which were all in said Rev. Mr. Fisher's charge. It soon became apparent that he had a too laborious field for his declining years, and in 1865 Classis at its annual session divided his charge by taking Trumbauresville congregation therefrom, and placing it in connection with Quakertown. This caused no little commotion, as the three churches had a parsonage in common and thought themselves inseparable; a joint consistory meeting was called by these three old congregations at their parsonage at Sellersville, and in consequence the Rev. Mr. Fisher resigned. A special meeting of Classis was then called, and by its action Leidy's Sellersville and Bridgeton churches were formed into a charge, and they unanimously elected Rev. P. S. Fisher as their pastor. He did good work here until his death in 1872.

We were next supplied by Rev. W. R. Yerrick, who was then pastor of the Hilltown charge. In 1874 Rev. J. G. Dengler, then a student of Franklin and Marshall College, was elected pastor of this charge. He filled it very acceptably and successfully until 1892, during which time a church was erected at Souderton, and one at Perkasio, which he also supplied. This increased his labors, and seeing that he could not do justice to all of them in these growing towns, resigned Leidy's and Souderton, and had Sellersville, Perkasio and Bridgeton formed into a charge. We were next supplied for some years—until 1899—by our present pastor, Rev. B. F. Luckenbill, who was then pastor of the Trumbauresville charge. At the next annual meeting of Classis a reconstruction of these churches was made, forming Leidy's Indian Creek and Souderton into a charge. This charge elected the present pastor,

Rev. B. F. Luckenbill, as their regular pastor; he is still with us and is doing good work among his people.

The Lutherans started a church organization about the same time as the Reformed, under the pastorate of Rev. F. Berkemeyer, of Sellersville, who labored here successfully for some years. His successor was Rev. J. Hilpot, since which time the congregation has been ably and very successfully supplied by their present pastor, Rev. D. H. Reiter, of Quakertown. Rev. Reiter has been pastor here now for over twenty years.

We again revert to the graveyard. As stated, the chapel, school-house and play-ground were all within the bounds of the old graveyard, and as the demand grew for more ground for burial purposes, the old buildings were torn down to make more room, and the entire burial ground was then enclosed with a stone wall, the whole being surrounded with public roads. As time progressed and membership increased this additional burial space was soon all occupied; and again there was a demand for more room for burial purposes. There being no other land contiguous to the old graveyard, shut off as it is by public roads on all sides, we were obliged to look elsewhere for ground. Thomas Leidy, the owner of the farm adjoining the church—who had sold the land for the church—offered to sell one acre more of his land. This, together with a strip of meadow land lying between the church and the cemetery, was then bought in 1882, and a cemetery association was incorporated, with the following named persons as incorporators: Thomas Martin, Hatfield; John J. Myers, Telford; Josiah W. Leidy, Hilltown; Abraham Cope, Hilltown; Jonas G. Leidy, Franconia; Joseph Proctor, Hatfield; known as the "Leidy's Cemetery Association of Emmanuel Union Church," charter perpetual; object of charter, the purchase and maintenance of suitable grounds, for all time, for burial purposes. The one acre bought has nearly all been disposed of, and the trustees very wisely, a few years ago, purchased another tract of two acres adjoining from Jonas Leidy, which can at any time, as needed, be included in the cemetery.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pa., at Leidy's Church, October 8, 1901.]

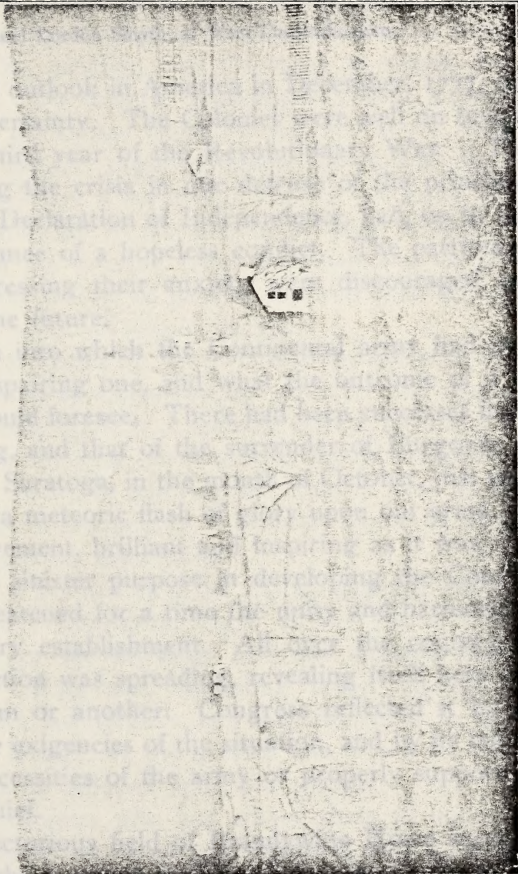
THE GULPH HILLS IN THE ANNALS OF THE REVOLUTION

By Samuel Johnson

The political outlook in the year of grave uncertainty. The end of the third year of the struggle, marking the crisis of the Revolution, laid down in the Declaration of Independence. At this time, the appearance of a hopeful country expressing their anxiety, even fearful of the future.

The position in which the nation had gotten was a despairing one, and no one could see how it could be none could foresee. There had been, however, or less reassuring, and that of the army, General Gates at Saratoga, in the autumn of 1777, for a time threw a meteoric flash of light upon that great achievement, brilliant as it was, made to serve a distant purpose, and the Cabal which threatened for a time the whole military establishment. Insidious disaffection was spreading, revealing there in one form or another. Attention to the exigencies of the situation to relieve the necessities of the army, the commander-in-chief.

From the victorious field, the capital of the Colonies, where, in the very cradle of liberty, the English troops were warmed and nourished by the Toryism of its wealthiest and most influential citizens, aided and abetted also, by many of the inhabitants of the adjacent counties. Thus



THE GULPH
FROM PHOTOGRAPH BY
WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON

entrenched the British bade defiance to the Federal army which had been for weeks on the plains of Whitemarsh waiting and eager for battle.

On the 26th of October, while the country was yet re-

THE GULPH HILLS IN THE ANNALS OF THE REVOLUTION.

By Samuel Gordon Smyth, of West Conshohocken.

The political outlook in America in December, 1777, was one of grave uncertainty. The Colonies were well on toward the end of the third year of the Revolutionary War. This struggle, marking the crisis in our defense of the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence, had, up to this time, the appearance of a hopeless conflict. The patriots of the country expressing their anxiety were discouraged and even fearful of the future.

The position into which the Continental army had now gotten was a despairing one, and what the outcome of it all would be none could foresee. There had been successes more or less reassuring, and that of the surrender of Burgoyne to General Gates at Saratoga, in the month of October, just past, for a time threw a meteoric flash of glory upon our arms, yet that great achievement, brilliant and inspiring as it was, was made to serve a sinister purpose in developing the Conway Cabal which threatened for a time the unity and harmony of the whole military establishment. All over the country an insidious disaffection was spreading, revealing itself here and there in one form or another. Congress reflected it by its inattention to the exigencies of the situation, and by its failure to relieve the necessities of the army or properly support its commander-in-chief.

From the victorious field of Brandywine Howe successfully penetrated the province of Pennsylvania and entered the capital of the Colonies, where, in the very cradle of liberty, the English troops were warmed and nourished by the Toryism of its wealthiest and most influential citizens, aided and abetted, also, by many of the inhabitants of the adjacent counties. Thus

entrenched, the British bade defiance to the Federal army which had lain for weeks on the plains of Whitmarsh waiting and eager for battle.

On the 29th of October, while the country was yet rejoicing over the triumph of Gates, General Washington called a council of his officers and laid before them the proposition, "Whether it would be prudent in our present circumstances and strength to attempt to dislodge the enemy from Philadelphia?" The question was discussed at length and decided negatively. To General Washington's mind it appeared that "a present advantage might be obtained at too great a cost—defeat or failure might complete the ruin of the army, and however brilliant a successful dash of the army might be, it was now too late to retrieve the fortunes of war. The husbanding of the existing force, seasoned and disciplined as it was, seemed to him of greater moment than devising an attack upon which *all* might depend."

General James M. Varnum, who agreed with Washington in this, concisely expressed his views in this language: "Although Philadelphia is a splendid object, although a total destruction of General Howe's army would complete your Excellency's felicity in relieving the country from all her calamities, yet the consequences of a defeat would be attended with miseries beyond description."

Once it seemed as if the British general would force the issue upon Washington, when, on the 7th of December, he came out as far as Edge Hill and engaged our men in a skirmish, killing and wounding some, capturing General Irvine and a few soldiers, and then returning to the city, chagrined, it is said, by the greater loss which he suffered than that which he inflicted upon our troops.

The colonists who had staked their all upon the justice and success of our cause now began to look for something to be done by the army to re-establish their confidence in it. It was needed from a political as well as from a military point of view, as it was generally thought that even a partial victory would inspire Congress and infuse energy into Pennsylvania, for the latter was tardy in furnishing her troops.

On the approach of cold weather, General Washington convened another council of war. It met at Whitemarsh, on the last day of November, 1777, and its object was to decide upon the location of winter quarters. Three plans were submitted to the council: first, to occupy the hills on the west side of the Schuylkill; second, to canton among the mountains about Lancaster and Reading; third, to hut the army in the vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware.

The council consisted of Major Generals Sullivan, Greene, LaFayette, McDougall and Stephens, and Brigadier Generals Maxwell, Smallwood, Knox, Varnum, Wayne, Weedon, Muhlenberg, Huntingdon, Conway and the Count Pulaski. Each of these officers was requested to submit his personal opinion upon the subject, in writing, to the commander-in-chief. Promptly, on December 1st, their replies came in, and, as may well be imagined, possessed as little unanimity as could be expected from a body constituted as this one was, by men of widely divergent views. Each plan had its ardent advocate, while several of the board were wholly unfamiliar with one or the other or all of the localities proposed. The question was exhaustively discussed, and, in one or two instances, in very original and picturesque language. The response of General Anthony Wayne was characteristic of him, and closes in these words: "Your Excellency's own good judgment will point out the proper measures necessary to guard against that surprise which some gentlemen *affect* so much to dread. I can only assure your Excellency that whatever position you may think most proper, I shall always be ready to acquiesce with and to serve you with the best service of your most obedient and very Humble servant,—ANTHONY WAYNE."

As between these conflicting recommendations, the General's own mind had fixed upon a plan more sagacious than his colleagues of the council foresaw, the wisdom of which is self-evident in the statement of a cotemporaneous writer who had served as an officer on the staffs of Howe, Clinton and Cornwallis in that memorable campaign. "Had the American army retired to Lancaster, York, or Carlisle, the nearest towns where they could have been accommodated with winter quar-

ters, a large and fertile district of the country would have been left open to the British troops to forage in at pleasure, the inhabitants of which being left without protection might have been tempted to accept of those pardons which were so liberally offered, and to submit themselves again, and become reconciled again, to the authority of the mother country."

Before announcing a final decision in respect to this matter, General Washington ordered the army to move from Whitemarsh and take up a new position at the Gulph—an important but secluded pass, so called, among the majestic highlands which sweep the western sky beyond the Schuylkill. The hills there are steep, wild, and wooded to their summits, and form part of a chain which, extending northeasterly through Delaware and Montgomery counties, ends abruptly on the Schuylkill at West Conshohocken—the Matson's Ford of the Revolution. They are, in fact, the foot hills of the Blue Mountains, whose shadowy outlines are seen far to the north of us, and from whose rugged heights there comes a series of diminishing ridges that soften into billowy landscapes around and about Philadelphia.

Back of these western hills lie broad and pleasant valleys, but as they fall away toward the Schuylkill they deepen and converge until some become mere ravines through which only the streams seem to find an outlet, and dark forests hide the woodland paths leading upward from the river.

On the 11th of December, 1777, the American army marched from Whitemarsh, by way of Broad Axe, toward Matson's Ford, *where Washington intended it should cross*, and by passing through one of these narrow valleys could reach its destination a mile or so beyond the river. The first division, under General Sullivan, with a part of the second, passed over the ford on a bridge constructed of thirty-six wagons placed end to end, across which rails had been laid to facilitate the passage of the troops.

It happened also that on the same day a large body of the British, under command of Lord Cornwallis, left Philadelphia by way of the Middle Ferry intent upon a foray through the outlying country. Colonel Edward Heston, the founder of

Hestonville and the progenitor of a family well known in Bucks and Montgomery counties, learned of their purpose and hastened to Merion to apprise General James Potter, upon whose staff Heston was at this time, of their coming, and by so doing the Colonel narrowly escaped capture.

General Potter had been assigned to the particular duty of protecting the Delaware and the Schuylkill with a brigade of Pennsylvania militia. On receiving Heston's news Potter hastily placed the militia in position on the hills through Lower Merion, himself taking post at "Harriton," then the home of Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, which is situated to the north of the present village of Bryn Mawr, known to-day as the Morris Farm.

Potter's advance guard met Cornwallis' men near the Black Horse tavern on the Lancaster road a few miles west of the city, and engaged the enemy. The militia were forced back, defending desperately, but losing in turn each position until their retreating column reached the valley and slopes of the Gulph hills leading to the Schuylkill at Matson's Ford. Though bravely contested to this point, and within reach of assistance, here the battalions broke and fled in a panic, leaving the Gulph and its flanking hillsides in possession of the British.

General Sullivan, who had by this time crossed the ford with the vanguard of the main army and was on his way toward the proposed encampment, now found himself confronted with the conquering red coats assembled on the heights on either side of the valley road leading to the Gulph. During the day rumors had reached the Americans that the British had left Philadelphia with the intention of checking the movement of Washington's army, and so it came about that when Sullivan found the English in his front in such formidable numbers assumed that Howe was out in force to oppose him, and promptly gave the order for his divisions to retreat and rejoin the main body on the east side, which, having discovered the opposition Sullivan had met with, was now on the move towards Swedes' Ford, a crossing three miles higher up the

river, and at which point the whole army encamped for the night.

After crossing the Schuylkill, General Sullivan destroyed the wagon bridge to prevent an attempt in pursuit, upon which Cornwallis did not venture, but contented himself with what had already been done, and remaining awhile on the bluffs overlooking the American movements, then returned to the foraging expedition upon which his troops had ostensibly started in the morning.

To quote again, this time from the correspondence of Colonel Joseph Reed, in a letter addressed to President Wharton, dated December 13, 1777, it would seem that the possibilities of winning glory to the American arms out of this unfortunate incident was lost to at least one ambitious officer in General Washington's official family. He says: "Some of the general officers thinking this a favorable opportunity to attack the enemy thus detached and fallen back from the hills so as to favor our crossing, were for passing the river immediately for that purpose; but, very unhappily in my judgment, a contrary opinion prevailed and the army retired about two miles or less from the river, where they lay until next evening, then they crossed—the enemy from the best advices being then on their way to Philadelphia, and very near it. They have made a grand forage, burnt many houses and plundered the inhabitants. It was somewhat mortifying that this should be done in the face of our whole army; but the danger of crossing while the enemy was in the neighborhood occasioned some gentlemen pressing earnestly to avoid an offensive measure. *I believe they will very soon see things in a different point of view,* for in love and war opportunities are everything. The General has suffered his own better judgment to be controlled by others, as they would have led to an attack which, I am well satisfied, would have proved great and glorious to America, as well as signally serviceable to the state."

Among other cotemporaneous accounts of the events of the day are four coming from those actually and eminently connected with the episode, which explain with detail all the exciting circumstances of the engagement.

In Sir William Howe's Report of Minor Operations near Philadelphia, an original record which is on file in the War Office in London, will be found this statement under date of December 13th, 1777: "On the 11th of December, at day-break, Lord Cornwallis passed the Schuylkill with a strong corps and the wagons of the army to collect forage. The enemy having quitted their camp at Whitemarsh, his Lordship met the head of their army at a bridge they had thrown over the Schuylkill at Matson's Ford. Over this bridge the enemy had passed 800 men, who were immediately dispersed by his Lordship's advanced troops obliging part of them to recross it, which occasioned such an alarm to their army that they broke the bridge, and his Lordship proceeded to forage without further interruption."

General Washington, in his report to Henry Laurens, President of Congress, then at Lancaster, Pa., and dated "Near the Gulph, December 14th, 1777," gives a different and more extended version of the matter: "On Thursday morning we marched from our old encampment, and intended to pass the Schuylkill at Madison's (Matson's) Ford, where a bridge had been laid across the river, . . . here a body of the enemy, consisting, from the best accounts we have been able to obtain, of four thousand men under Lord Cornwallis possessed themselves of the heights on both sides of the road leading from the river to the Gulph, which I presume are well known to some part of your honorable body. This unexpected event obliged such of our troops as had crossed, to repass, and prevented our getting over until the succeeding night. This manœuver on the part of the enemy was not in consequence of any information they had of our movement, but was designed to secure the pass whilst they were foraging in the neighboring country. They were met in their advance by General Potter with part of the Pennsylvania Militia, who behaved with bravery and gave them every possible opposition till he was obliged to retreat from their superior numbers. Had we been an hour sooner or had the least information of the measure, I am persuaded we should have given his Lordship a fortunate stroke, or obliged him to return without effecting

his purpose, or drawn out all General Howe's force to support him. Our first intelligence was that it was all out. Lord Cornwallis collected a good deal of forage and returned to the city the night we passed the river. No discrimination marked his proceedings. All property, whether friend or foe, that came in their way was seized and carried off."

General Potter's report, which was forwarded to Thomas Wharton, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, was graphic and curious, as was the most of his correspondence. It is a unique document and reads as follows: "Last Thursday the enemy marche out of the City with a desire to Furridge, but it was necessary to drive me out of the way, my advanced picket fired on them at the Bridge; another party of one Hundred attacked them at the Black Hors. I was encamped on Charles Thompson's place, where I stacconed three Regements who attacked the enemy with viger. On the next hill, I stacconed three Regements letting the first line know, that when they were overpowered, thee must Retreat and from the behind the sacond line, and in that manner we formed and retreated for four miles, and on every Hill we disputed the matter with them. My People behaved well, especially three Regements, commanded by the Cols. Chambers, Murray and Leacey. His Excellency Returned us thanks in public orders:—But the cumplament would have been mutch more substantale had the valant Generil Solovan covered my Retreat with the two devisions of the Army, he had in my reare, the front of them one Half mile in my reare, but he gave orders for them to Retreat and join the army who were on the other side of the Schuylkill about one mile and a Half from me; thus the enemy Got leave to plunder the country without parsiality or favour to any leaving none of the necessecereyes of Life behind them that they conveniently could carry or destroy."

General Davis in his excellent biography of General John Lacey relates in detail the experience of the latter on this occasion and using, in part, the narrative as told by Lacey himself: "Col. Lacey, with his regiment occupied the centre of the first line, consisting of three regiments, and was drawn up on

an eminence, with the right resting on the main road. The two other regiments fled at the first fire, but Lacey's stood their ground and exchanged shots with the enemy until they began to outflank him, when he fell back in good order to the second line under General Potter, drawn up on a height, about half a mile in the rear. The enemy rushed on and in a short time compelled the second line to give way also. Lacey, with his regiment, covered the retreat of the flying militia, and tried in vain to rally them to make further resistance. Soon a general rout ensued and he was obliged to rejoin the main body and hasten off the field as rapidly as possible. *I was among the rear, and having in attempting to rally the men got some distance from the road I came to a fence, which I got my horse over with much difficulty, but on coming to a second fence, after passing over a field (it being one side of a lane leading from the Schuylkill to the Gulph road, and a stout fence), I called to the men who were passing over to throw off a rider. All being in such a hurry and thinking of nothing but self-preservation they took no notice but left me to get over as well as I could. Twice did I run my horse against the fence without effect. On the third attempt it gave way. I found myself in a lane and set off at full speed for the main road, about 200 yards distant, on entering which I discovered a column of the enemy's horse on top of the hill about fifty yards from me. They called upon me to surrender, but upon casting my eyes down the road I saw our flying troops about 200 yards below. By a mere mechanical movement, without time to think, I clapped the spurs to my horse, and, lying flat upon his withers, went at full speed after them. The enemy fired their pistols or carbines at me and I heard their bullets whisk by me. Two dragoons pursued me, and finding them gaining upon me as I came up with the hindmost troops, I ordered our men to turn about and fire. Several muskets were discharged as the men ran by firing off their shoulders without stopping or turning about. Conceiving myself in more danger by this mode of firing from my own men than from the enemy, I called upon them to desist or they would shoot me. On my gaining the rear of our retreating troops, one of the dragoons held up,

but the other horse being too mettlesome refused to yield to his rider and they dashed in among our men and were both shot down together. The transaction was so sudden and instantaneous that it was impossible to save either the man or horse, more than twenty guns being fired at them in the same moment."

General Potter's brigade consisted of about 500 militia and a detachment of Lee's light-horse. These, with the three commands under Colonels Murray, Chambers and Lacey, noted above (that had been detailed by Washington to reinforce Potter in Merion only a few days before the attack already mentioned), approximated a column of a thousand or more men.

The loss to this force is partially obtained from a letter written by Major General John Armstrong, addressed to President Wharton of the Executive Council, dated "Camp near Spring Tavern, 16 (Dec.), 1777," in which Armstrong says: "General Potter writes me that he had 5 men killed 10 wounded, 10 made prisoners, but a greater number missing." From another authority we learn that the casualties in the Northumberland regiment were Timothy Lennington, Robert McQuillan and Charles Clark, all severely wounded. McQuillan was badly cut up by the light-horse, taken prisoner and kept in captivity for three years. Clark was of Captain Taggart's Company. What the losses were to the rest of the column are unknown to me, but I doubt not they were severe, especially upon Lacey's regiment, as it bore the brunt of the attack. Lacey's regiment behaved so admirably that General Washington publicly complimented them in general orders."

The most humiliating feature of the whole affair was in the disgrace put upon our cause by the reckless flight of Potter's soldiers, whom, wild with fear, threw away their equipment to expedite their chance of escape.

The defeated force joined the main army near Swedes' Ford while on its way to the Gulph and accompanied it to camp. General Potter here ordered a court-martial to try those soldiers who threw away their guns during the fight of December 11th, and Colonel (not yet appointed a general) Lacey

was appointed judge advocate. The findings resulted in a number of the men being publicly whipped, an event which produced not a little excitement in the camp.

The scene of the engagement is covered to-day beneath the beautiful garb of summer. No one, looking down upon the fair fields of Merion from the Gulph Hills, would for a moment realize that where all this peace and beauty now over-spreads the landscape, there once the tide of battle swept. Little in local tradition refers to these incidents, but the mute testimony of the relics that are found there is eloquent and indisputable. From time to time the farmers have gathered up the corroded shot, flint locks, bridle-bits, ramrods and the like which are yielded up from the mysterious maw of Mother Earth. As recent as the last summer your speaker found an old, rusty, broken, hiltless sword in a field-wash on "Stoke-Pogis," and not far from the spot where it was found others have turned up out of the soil cannon balls of different sizes, all these seemingly indicating the course the contest took down the valley toward the Schuylkill.

While all this has, perhaps, but local interest, the greater and more general historic centres in the fact that the main body of the Continental army encamped here—on the Gulph Hills—after leaving Whitemarsh.

General Washington, still undecided as to a permanent location for quartering his soldiers, selected this bold, beetling ridge for at least a temporary cantonment and to offer Lord Howe—if he still desired it—a final opportunity of "driving the rebels beyond the mountains," which had been the empty boast of the British the week before when they attempted to surprise the Americans at Edge Hill.

Having already related how the march of the army was interrupted by the occurrences at West Conshohocken and in Lower Merion, I have now to add that the troops crossed the Schuylkill at Swedes' Ford and came down on the west side of the river in a blinding snowstorm, bivouacking among the sheltering boulders on the pine-clad slopes at Gulph Mills at 3 o'clock on the morning of December 13th. From that time to December 19th the wearied patriots, whose footprints thither

were said to have been "tracked in blood," laid around their campfires, exposed to the keen blasts which swept over the hilltops, their only protection the jutting rocks and the friendly cedars. The soldiers even wanted food; their wagon train had been delayed, and it was not until the 16th that the army was gotten under canvas.

The miserable and distressed condition of the soldiers and the incidents connected with their daily camp life, are tersely told by Dr. Albigeance Waldo, a surgeon in General Jedediah Huntington's Connecticut brigade, who kept a faithful record of his observations during those memorable days. A brief entry under date of December 12th opens his diary and epitomizes the history of the day on which the army passed from Swedes' Ford to the Gulph. "Cold and uncomfortable. It snows! I am sick! Eat nothing—no whiskey—no baggage. Lord! Lord! Lord!

"December 13th. The army camp at a place called Gulph Mills. This Gulph seems well adapted by its situation to keep us from pleasures and enjoyments of this world, or being conversant with anybody in it. It is an excellent place to raise the ideas of a philosopher beyond the glutted thoughts and reflexions of an Epicurian. It cannot be that our Superiors are about to hold consultation with spirits infinitely beneath their order—by bringing us into the utmost regions of the Terraquos Sphere. No, it is, upon consideration, for many good purposes, since we are to winter here. First, there is plenty of wood and water here. Second, there are but few families for the soldiers to steal from—though far be it from a soldier to steal. Fourth, there are warm sides of hills to erect huts on. Fifth, they will be heavenly-minded like Jonah in the belly of the Great fish. Sixth, they will not become homesick as is sometimes the case when men live in the open world, since the reflections which must naturally arise from their present habitations will naturally lead them to the more noble thoughts of employing their more leisure hours in filling their knapsacks with such materials as may be necessary on their journey to another home.

"December 14th. Prisoners and deserters are constantly coming in. The army, who have been surprisingly healthy hitherto, now begin to grow sickly from the continued fatigue they have suffered this campaign, yet they show spirit, alacrity and contentment not to be expected from so young troops.

I am sick and discontented—out of home—poor food—hard lodging—cold weather—fatigue—nasty clothes. What sweet felicities have I left at home—a charming wife—pretty children—good cooking—all agreeable—all harmonious. But harkee! Patience, a moment: there comes a soldier—his worn out shoes, his legs nearly naked from the remains of an only pair of stockings. His breeches not enough to cover his nakedness, his shirt hanging in strings, his hair dishevelled, his face meagre, his whole appearance pictures a person forsaken and discouraged. He comes and cries with an air of wretchedness and despair:—I am sick, my feet lame, my legs are sore, my body covered with this tormenting itch, my clothes are worn out, my constitution is broken. I fail fast and all the reward I shall get is:—‘Poor Will is dead.’

“December 15th. Quiet. Eat persimmons.

“December 16th. Cold, rainy. Baggage of our division ordered over the Gulph. We are to march at ten, but the baggage was ordered back again, and for the first time tents were pitched (since we have been here) to keep the men comfortable.

“December 18th. Universal thanksgiving. A roasted pig at night.”

Such is the pitiful and doleful tale of one of those heroes, and there were upwards of 11,000 such herded on those hills.

It was not until December 17th that General Washington determined upon Valley Forge as the most suitable refuge for his troops. That holy place in American history, that altar of patriotism whose sacrificial fires purged the land of tyranny—and that land our country!—whose magnificent lessons to the world are recorded in a blaze of glory from Lexington to Luzon—marking the triumphal progress of the most wonderful nation on earth—that spot: is only six miles distant to the northwest across the beautiful Chester Valley that lies between us. When the army crossed the Schuylkill at Swedes’ Ford it was then within three or four miles of the place which the American people have canonized for all time.

While the army lay at the Gulph, Washington’s own headquarters were reported to have been at Walnut Grove, at the time the home of Colonel Hughes, who had command of the Flying Camp. Hughes’ house was situated about a mile

from the east side of the Gulph. There is now not a stone of it standing, which we who venerate as well as preserve the landmarks of history can identify or worship.

Where the general officers were domiciled remains a mystery still, and where local tradition points to certain dwellings in the neighborhood said to have been in their use, I have tried to get the facts to identify any one of them for this peculiar honor, but have failed, thus far, to obtain satisfactory results.

After the army had left the Gulph Hills and settled down to their dreary life in huts at Valley Forge, outposts were stationed upon the high ridges which stretch like a barrier across the Delaware-Schuylkill peninsula, and limited the zone of British operations on the south and east.

All approaches to Washington's retreat were under strict surveillance and strongly defended. The main road from Philadelphia to the headquarters at Valley Forge passed through the Gulph, and it thus became an important position. It was held for a time under the command of Lord Stirling, who while there occupied the house of John Reese, near Rebel Hill, as headquarters.

Colonel Aaron Burr, commanding a portion of McDougall's brigade, was posted here also during that winter. Matthew Davis, his biographer, tells a very interesting story of a mutiny occurring among Burr's corps while here, which that officer, with characteristic fearlessness and celerity, crushed by severing the arm of the ringleader when he gave the signal of revolt. Colonel Burr occupied the miller's house which stands on the roadside beside the Gulph Mill. The property is now owned by Henderson Supplee.

General Anthony Wayne, after ridding his native county of Chester of British sympathizers, was sent with a detachment into Jersey to forage among the Tories about Salem.

General Potter was posted in the vicinity of Darby and Chester to watch the roads adjacent to the river and break up communication with the islands in the Delaware. General Armstrong remained on the east side of the Schuylkill, in the neighborhood of Gwynedd and Plymouth. Colonel Lacey,

who had been appointed a brigadier general, January 9th, 1778, was dispatched to his old position in the lower end of Bucks county and instructed to watch the "nine capital highways" leading from Philadelphia and to apprehend the bold partisans who were so notoriously identified with the British.

General Lacey, like LaFayette, was one of the youngest generals in the Revolutionary service, being at the time of his advance but twenty-three years of age. He was appointed by the Executive Council, and selected from among such a group of experienced military men as Colonels Morris, Penrose, Bradford, Delaney, Bull, Lieutenant Colonel Conners, of the Line, and Joseph Reed, of the staff. Lacey was a native of Warminster, in Bucks county, who made great sacrifices and served his country faithfully in her need. How well and earnestly I need not here and now say, but refer you to the excellent study of his life and character by General W. W. H. Davis.

The assignments mentioned above, completed the encircling lines which kept the British themselves virtually prisoners in Philadelphia and safe guarded the place where General Washington amid the snows of the bleak peaks and desolate vales of Valley Forge nursed the hope of American in drilling his levies and developing the Spartan band, while in the gay metropolis the Knights of the Meschianza danced away the moments toward that retributive hour when the Sons of Liberty purified by suffering, firm and resolute in purpose, were destined to pour upon the invader the wrath of an inevitable doom.

Again upon one other momentous occasion the Gulph Hills became the hospitable refuge and line of defense against a British attack. The incident was that of General LaFayette's masterly retreat from Barren Hill, across Matson's Ford to the heights above it overlooking the Schuylkill. The writer deems it of interest to add to this paper brief extracts from the British historian Stedman, and LaFayette's biographer and memorialist, General H. L. D. Du Cordray Holstein. The latter, writing in 1824, says: "In May, 1778, General Howe was succeeded in the command of the British army by

General Clinton. Howe gave on the 18th of the month a brilliant entertainment which lasted twelve hours. General Washington, made acquainted with this fact, issued his orders to LaFayette to proceed from his headquarters at Valley Forge with a view to annoy the enemy then in Philadelphia. At the head of 2500 men he accordingly crossed the Schuylkill and occupied a position in advance of the American camp at Beacon [Barren] Hill, where he passed the night in order to observe the enemy's movements and take advantage of any favorable opportunity that might present itself. As soon as General Clinton was informed of this movement he dispatched on the night of the 19th General Grant with 3000 men and several field pieces with instruction to surprise the Marquis, and, if possible, to cut off his retreat. The English General, by a circuitous route, advanced to a position about two miles in the rear of LaFayette, and at the same time a numerous body of troops was ordered to advance from Philadelphia to attack him in front. General Grant considered his success as certain; and neglecting previously to secure Matron Fort [Matson's Ford], a post situated on the Schuylkill, he advanced rapidly and boldly attack the American army. But LaFayette, aware of his design, filed off his detachments with so much order and despatch as to gain Matron Fort [Matson's Ford], about a mile distant, and pass the river before the enemy could reach him. This retreat, which would have done honor to a far more experienced general, frustrated the intentions of the enemy and saved the detachment from inevitable defeat; as the loss of this army would have had a very pernicious influence on the American cause. General Washington was highly gratified with the address and management of LaFayette, and received him with every demonstration of satisfaction."

Stedman, in an account published in 1794, devotes several pages of his work to an explanation of this affair, from which I have condensed the following. He says: "The object of this step is not very clear, the position was still too distant from Philadelphia to give any interruption of consequence to such supplies as were carried into that city by the neighboring

county. Possibly the intended evacuation of Philadelphia was now well known. General Washington might have thought it would keep up the spirits of his party if he seemed to press upon the British in the retreat. . . . On the night of May 20th 5000 of the choicest troops of the British army set out from Philadelphia . . . and reached at length its destined point without having fallen in with any patrol or outpost of the enemy. When General Grant arrived at the point described the confused galloping of some of the enemy's horsemen, who advanced to reconnoitre, intimated that the approach of the British was then first perceived. . . . A corps of cavalry that had formed the advanced guard on the march, took possession of a hill between the two roads. **From this elevation** the corps of LaFayette were discovered retreating toward Matson's Ford through the low woody grounds which border the river. The disorder and precipitation apparent in the rear of the column sufficiently indicated the terror with which they were attempting their escape. Information of this circumstance is said to have been given to General Grant, and his superior proximity to Matson's Ford is reputed to have been urged to him and even pointed out in the strongest manner. . . . For some unaccountable reason the general persisted in his resolution of advancing to Barren Hill notwithstanding the strong remonstrances of Sir William Erskine against that measure. . . . In the meantime LaFayette had reached the ford, but his troops being overcome with apprehension had hurried across the river leaving behind them the six field pieces which they had brought from camp to the bank of the river. LaFayette having formed his battalions on the other side and seeing that the British did not approach the ford by the road, which he apprehended, **then** sent a corps across for his cannon, and some parties to advance into the wood to retard the advance of the British while the artillery was in the river, but before the parties of observation could retire the British fell upon them and killed or took about forty. The British guards advanced to the ford, but perceiving that LaFayette was advantageously posted, with his artillery on the high and broken ground which arose from the water's edge, knew that nothing

further could be attempted against him. Thus unfortunately failed the object of the expedition. It is said that General Washington thought the case so hopeless that he broke his bridge at Valley Forge lest the success be pursued against himself."

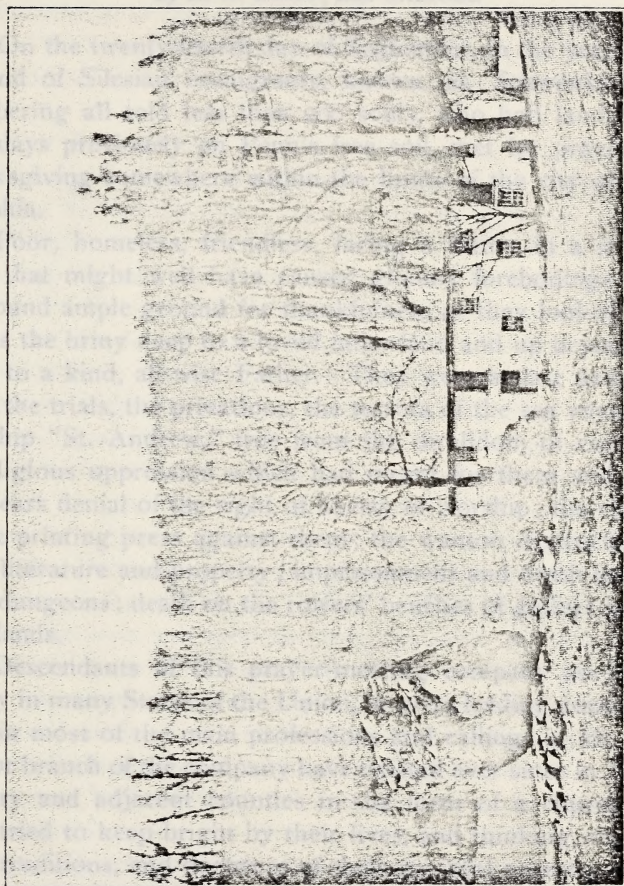
And so, my friends, when you come to the Gulph, and look upon the monumental boulder, as you may see it to-day, which the Sons of the Revolution erected there in 1893, marking the old camp ground, you will be reminded "that you are standing on historic soil, that these hills one hundred and twenty-three years ago witnessed the privations and sufferings of a band of heroes. Where the old Gulph Mill—its walls in ruins and grey with age, still guards the spot though a silent sentinel. Here have passed and repassed men whose names are history itself, whose deeds are a cherished inheritance. Washington, modest as virtuous; Green, wise as brave; Knox, gallant as true; LaFayette, the friend of America; Sullivan, DeKalb, Muhlenberg, Maxwell, Huntingdon and Wayne, Anthony Wayne! (and Lacey, too)—Pennsylvania's soldiers and patriots.

These grounds were the threshold of Valley Forge, and the story of that winter,—a story of endurance, forbearance and patriotism which will never grow old—had its beginning here, at the six days' encampment by the old Gulph Mill.

[Read before Montgomery County Historical Society, at Ashbourne, Pa.,
October 6, 1900.]

THE SCHWENKFIELDERS

BY W. E. B. DUBOIS



THE GULPH MILLS

of believers in Christ who for essence of doctrinal theory maintain the teachings of Casper Schwenkfeld. They accept the Bible as the infallible rule of faith and practice, Jesus Christ as their divine Saviour and model for the daily life, the Apostles

THE SCHWENKFELDERS.

By H. W. Kriebel, East Greenville.

On the twenty-fourth day of September, in the year 1734, a band of Silesian immigrants, known as Schwenkfelders, numbering all told less than 200 souls, who had landed but two days previously on Penn's free soil, met for prayer and thanksgiving somewhere within the limits of the city of Philadelphia.

Poor, homeless, friendless, facing a future in a strange land that might well have caused gloomy forebodings, they yet found ample ground for thankfulness as they looked back across the briny deep to a loved fatherland and up beyond the skies to a kind, all-wise Father. They were at last delivered from the trials, the privations, the terrors of the sea voyage in the ship "St. Andrew," free from the thralldom of centuries of religious oppression which had meant for them and their forebears denial of the right of liberty of worship; the closing of the printing press against them; the wanton destruction of their literature and property; imprisonment and death in cold, dark dungeons; death on the rowers' benches of galleys in foreign lands.

Descendants of this prayer-meeting company are found to-day in many States of the Union, in every leading denomination, in most of the main professions and callings in life. A root or branch of the company have existed ever since in Montgomery and adjacent counties in the form of a church and have tried to keep bright by their lives, and thinking, the history, traditions, and doctrines of their spiritual ancestry. Respecting this handful of people, we may say they are a body of believers in Christ who for essence of doctrinal theory maintain the teachings of Casper Schwenkfeld. They accept the Bible as the infallible rule of faith and practice, Jesus Christ as their divine Saviour and model for the daily life, the Apostles'

Creed as a basis for Christian fellowship. They believe in the universal priesthood of believers, the equality of all church members. They stand for an educated ministry and membership, for a daily living of the Christian life in all the duties and callings of man. Their present modes of activity are:—the ministry, public worship, Sunday schools maintained since 1734, instruction in the catechism, the Charity Fund founded in 1774, Perkiomen Seminary, a Board of Missions, a Board of Publication, Ladies' Aid Societies, Christian Endeavor Societies.

Casper Schwenkfeld, a noble, was born of Catholic parents at Ossig, Germany, in 1490, and died in 1562. After due preparation he entered upon court service to withdraw under God's guidance to become an intense student of the Bible, the Church fathers, and the Greek language. He aided in the spread of the Reformation movement in Silesia, for which he received the thanks of Luther himself. Since he was honest in his convictions, faithful to them and could not agree on doctrinal points with the various leaders in the Reformation movement, he was thrust aside by these, to suffer persecution from 1525 to the end of his days. He consistently and firmly maintained his position, won many friends to his cause, and there was for a time a promising prospect that Silesia would embrace the Reformation by the Middle Way, as the movement under Schwenkfeld was called. The glory of Jesus Christ, his Saviour, was ever his master passion; hence he and his followers were often called "Confessors of the glory of Christ." A recent reviewer said of him: "To borrow Schelling's classification, if the Latin Church is Petrine, and the Protestant Pauline, that of Schwenkfeld is Johannine."

The term "Schwenkfelders" was applied to the followers of Schwenkfeld during his lifetime, and has been thus used ever since. In spite of repressive measures, there were thousands of faithful adherents to mourn his death, found then and later scattered through various sections of central Europe. For more than two centuries prior to 1734 the history of this people is mainly but a tale of woe and sorrow, oppression by the State and Church. The design of this paper forbids re-

counting how they were driven from their homes, imprisoned in dark dungeons, maltreated as galley slaves, disgraced as vagabonds and outcasts, dragged to the churches of the persecutors.

To a body of people who believe that among temporal gifts and favors of God the greatest and most important is a pure, Christian system of doctrine, doctrinal literature must always hold a place of prime importance, and such has been the case with the brotherhood in the faith whom this prayer-meeting represented. At various times and in various ways have they tried to augment their literature by purchasing stray volumes as they came to the surface in Europe, by issuing new editions of favorite books, by transcribing bulky tomes with the quill by dim candle light. Without dwelling on these efforts it is in place to make public note of the most recent, the most extensive labors along this line.

In the year 1883 a descendant of the sturdy worshipers at said prayer meeting, an honored teacher of Church history, Prof. C. D. Hartranft, D. D., of the Hartford Theological Seminary, a Congregationalist, though in earlier life a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, was invited to deliver an address at the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the prayer meeting, September 24, 1884, celebrated by the Schwenkfelders in the Worcester Meeting House. The said invitation must ever be regarded a golden milestone in the history of these people, for out of it grew by gradual unfolding, amidst gloomy days, chilling winds, and fearful nights, a scheme outlined in 1885, and since developed, looking toward and contemplating the publication of a *Corpus Schwenkfeldianorum*. The Schwenkfelder Church was the directing body; Dr. Chester D. Hartranft the editor.

To quote from a prospectus issued at the time, the scheme contemplates with respect to the works of Casper Schwenkfeld of Ossig:

A critical text, various readings, the original marginalia, explanatory notes, and full apparatus. The notes, the preface, the prolegomena, etc., to be in the English language.

2. The chronological order of the documents without regard to encyclopædic arrangement.

3. The text, in smaller type, of all unpublished letters addressed to Schwenkfeld or Crautwald, or that make mention of them. If previously edited, references to the edition will be given in the text. The text of all acts or historical documents hitherto unpublished which refer to them, will be printed in a similar way.

4. The portraits and pictures in connection with the persons in the history, in the year of their appearance.

5. Facsimile specimens of the MSS.

6. A full bibliography of the literature.

7. Indices of persons, places, and subject matter to each volume.

8. A history in English of the Reformation by the Middle Way.

Doctor Hartranft, who has been the editor, yea, the very mind, soul, and spirit of this monumental work, himself stated the following reasons for undertaking the enterprise:

1. The increasing estimate put upon Schwenkfeld by the student of this movement.

2. The scarcity of the older editions; besides the half of the MSS. have never seen the light.

3. The material presents another principle of the many-sided Reformation in the 16th century.

4. Schwenkfeld's connection with every eminent leader in all the other forms of Reformation; his wide intercourse with thoughtful adherents of the papacy, his journeys which brought him to all the chief centers of literary and religious activity, his high birth, combine to give an unmistakable worth to his voluminous correspondence.

5. The work will be a vindication of the memory of the profoundest theologian that Silesia, fertile in great minds, has produced.

6. Such a work will contribute much material to the history of culture in the Reformation period.

7. These works are of scarcely less consequence not only for the history of literature, but also for German philology.

8. For the history of doctrine, Schwenkfeld's teachings in Christology, Soteriology and Ecclesiology are prominent features of the Reformation discussions.

9. In Schwenkfeld we find the source of many characteristics of modern Protestantism; the function of the laity in the church, the right of representation, the freedom of con-

science, the separation of church and state, the ecclesiola in ecclesia, and many another principle that is now potent in all branches of Christendom, had their strongest champion in him, in the day when these were heretical principles and when their assertion was at the peril of life; there is scarcely a religious school, whether evangelical, pietistic, or liberal, that has not drawn some formative impulse from him, through a hitherto unobserved absorption.

Such a task, such motives, must appeal strongly to any man who has the courage to attempt, the equipment to perform great things. Doctor Hartranft has these. Born in Frederick township, Montgomery county, in 1839, a graduate of the Philadelphia High School, of the University of Pennsylvania, and of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, holding the titles, Mus. Doc. and D. D., he has been a writer on theological subjects, pastor, trainer of church choirs, conductor of oratorio societies, president of a conservatory of music, professor of Ecclesiastical history, biblical theology, Ecclesiastical dogmatics, and from 1888 to 1903 the honored president of the Hartford Theological Seminary. After giving twenty-five years of magnificent service to this institution he was called by his friends the Saviour, the Architect, the Wisdom of the Hartford Theological Seminary, and the Seminary Record said of him: "It has been his thought and his influence which have guided, unified, dominated, and inspired the life of the institution throughout these years."

While ordinarily the filling a position so as to merit such high praise would be ample to occupy one's time and strength, the Doctor's energy looked for other fields to conquer and he plunged headlong into and buried himself in the intricacies of the work on the Corpus. Neither did he nor the church whom he had undertaken to serve realize at first the immensity of the labor he undertook. The undertaking meant a careful analysis of all that Caspar Schwenkfeld wrote, a working knowledge of the life and doctrine of all with whom Schwenkfeld came into contact, an acquaintance with the literature of and concerning the whole Reformation period, a knowledge of modern, historic, theologic, and philosophic thought—which, all told, implies a thorough ransacking, rummaging and

working with a fine-tooth comb of the great number of immense libraries dotting Germany and part of the libraries in England, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Russia, besides an acquaintance with what myriad printing presses are giving forth to-day.

The realization of such ideal has meant

1. A steady devotion of the editor, Dr. Hartranft, to this monumental work for the last twenty years.

2. A liberal outlay of money by the editor himself, by the Schwenkfelder Church, by the friends of the Hartford Theological Seminary, by various generous friends of the Doctor.

3. A profound faith on the part of the editor, enabling him to adhere to the ultimate end contemplated amid the most trying circumstances.

4. A deliberate sacrifice of opportunities for worldly honors, riches, preferment. The world will never know what possibilities came to the editor along his pathway to be spurned as unworthy of the servant of the most high God.

5. The giving of an example of scholarly research in the interests of the wider knowledge of the kingdom of God most refreshing in a materialistic age.

6. A contribution to the study of Jesus and consequently a suggestion respecting the solution of the plague of perplexing questions that pester modern society. Doctor Hartranft but voiced himself, but revived the very mind and soul of Caspar Schwenkfeld, when he said on the occasion of his inauguration as president of the Hartford Theological Seminary:

"Here, we believe, is the beginning of the restoration, not only to assert, but to build upon the conviction that Christ's view of God and the universe, of men and the world, is the true one. It becomes the duty and function of the Christian to declare this with boldness and certainty; to make it the initiative of his science, of his literature, of his art, of his enterprise, of his politics, or every sphere of his culture. Christ regnant is the concept and substance of all things; and this we set forth as our starting-point, as the truth for which we stand. It ought to seem impossible for the Christian to take any lower ground. It has been a debasing slavery into which the church has allowed herself to be dragged, in trying to adapt herself to the literature and art of the natural man; bowing down to the

world-gods in her effort to graft naturalism, classicism, and romanticism upon the Christian stock; striving to regard them as per se wholesome and pure products; seeking, through speculative and unscientific expedients, especially through the adoption of accommodating principles, to make herself comprehensive enough to embrace all this alien brood under her wing. Thus she has destroyed her legitimate and proper headship; sometimes in pure fear of Mephistopheles, sometimes herself captivated by the sensuous, she has allowed the world-spirit to reign over her and mould her thought and service to God and man."

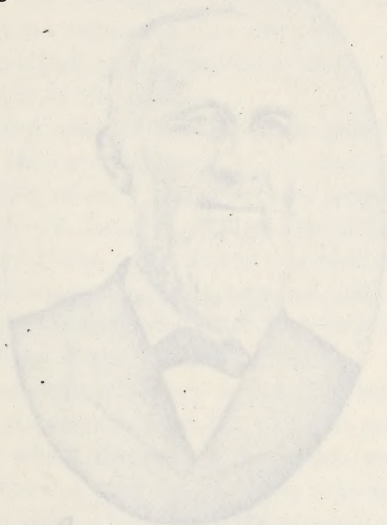
The work is one in which there is and will be ample room for rejoicing, on the part of the citizens of Montgomery, realizing that Dr. Hartranft first saw the light of day within the bounds of the county; on the part of Philadelphia as the place where he spent his boyhood days and laid the foundations for a life of eminent usefulness; on the part of the Hartford Theological Seminary and all her friends where he toiled and struggled in the Master's vineyard for a quarter of a century; on the part of sound American scholarship whose reputation at home he has brightened by his accomplishments and whose fame he has carried across the seas and heightened in the land of scholars, famed Germany, the Fatherland.

A loving hand would gladly lay this slight token of esteem at the feet of one whom he has seen tread the winepress alone, whom he has seen go to the garden alone, whom he has seen carrying the heavy end of the log alone—practically alone. It is fitting that the Montgomery County Historical Society should give this public recognition to an honored historian and maker of history who is a son of the county and whose ancestry came to the county more than one hundred and fifty years ago.

NOTE.—These words were occasioned by a letter received recently from the President of our Historical Society requesting the writer to put in shape the line of thought expressed by him at the meeting of the Society, November 29, 1902. They seem to him opportune at this time, in view of the fact that Doctor Hartranft, being practically ready to go to press, is at the time

of writing making a final tour of research through South Germany, from which he expects mainly but negative results; which means that he has satisfied himself that the exhaustive search for material a historical writer in a case like this ought to make has been made, and, that he has practically completed the collection of raw materials out of which he hopes to rear a lasting monument that will prove an honor to its architect and builder and those who shared the labors.

June, 1905.



Jos. K. Gutzwiller

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORRISTOWN.

By Prof. Joseph K. Gotswald.

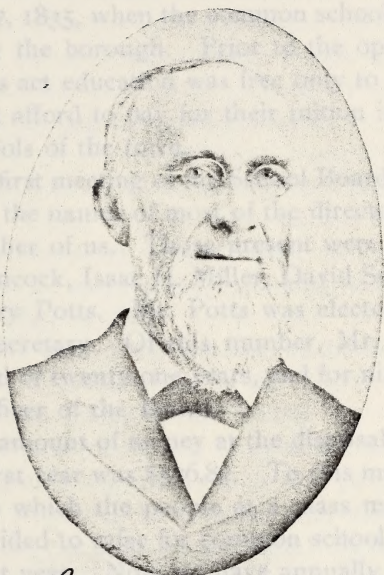
The system of public education in Norristown dates back to July 27, 1835, when the common school law of 1834 was accepted by the borough. Prior to the opening of the schools under this act education was free only to those whose parents could not afford to pay for their children in any of the ten private schools of the borough.

The first annual meeting of the School Board was held September 24, 1834, the names of the directors being well known as a number of men of prominence were George M. Thomas, R. F. Hancock, James M. Smith, David Sawyer, William Powell and Henry Potts. Mr. Potts was elected President and Mr. Sawyer Secretary. For the first year, Mr. Hancock served for the period of one year, and for the next five years was the presiding officer of the Board.

The amount of money for the first year of the School Board for the first year was \$2,000. In the next year must be added the sum of \$2,000 which the School Board at its meeting on March 26, 1836, decided to appropriate for school purposes in the borough that year. The sum of \$2,000 was annually almost fifty times as much.

On July 20, 1836, the Academy was rented by the School Board, the rental to be paid being at the rate of ten cents for each and every pupil therein at the end of each quarter. This Academy building, by the way, was the first of which there is any authentic record as having been built for school purposes. It received from the State an appropriation of \$2,000, was erected in 1805, and stood until 1849, when it was torn down, the lot sold, and the proceeds went towards the building of the Oak street school house.

Six schools were ordered to be opened on September 5, 1836. These schools were made up of three grades, primary,



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The system of public education in Norristown dates back to July 27, 1835, when the common school law of 1834 was accepted by the borough. Prior to the opening of the schools under this act education was free only to those whose parents could not afford to pay for their tuition in any of the ten private schools of the town.

The first meeting of the School Board was held September 24, 1834, the names of most of the directors being well known to a number of us. Those present were George M. Thomas, B. F. Hancock, Isaac H. Miller, David Sower, William Powell and Henry Potts. Mr. Potts was elected President and Mr. Sower Secretary. Of this number, Mr. Hancock served for the period of twenty-one years, and for nine years was the presiding officer of the Board.

The amount of money at the disposal of the School Board for the first year was \$576.82. To this must be added the sum of \$2,000 which the people at a mass meeting on March 26, 1836, decided to raise for common school purposes in the borough that year. Now we have annually almost fifty times as much.

On July 26, 1836, the Norristown Academy was rented by the School Board, the rental to be paid being at the rate of ten cents for each and every pupil therein at the end of each quarter. This Academy building, by the way, was the first of which there is any authentic record as having been built for school purposes. It received from the State an appropriation of \$2,000, was erected in 1805, and stood until 1849, when it was torn down, the lot sold, and the proceeds went towards the building of the Oak street school house.

Six schools were ordered to be opened on September 5, 1836. These schools were made up of three grades, primary,

secondary and high school. The sexes were taught in separate rooms. To preside over these schools the following teachers were elected: Mr. Supplee, at a salary of \$25 per month, including rent for room; John Willard, at a salary of \$30 per month; Hannah Adamson, \$20 per month; Margaret Worrall, \$50 per quarter, including rent of room, and Zebiah Ogden, at \$20 per month. The school closed the same year in December for the want of funds.

The first school visiting committee reported a total attendance of one hundred and thirteen pupils in the school, fifty-six boys and fifty-seven girls. There are now 1600 boys and 1625 girls attending our public schools.

The first one of the buildings erected by the Norristown School Board was on a lot fronting on Church street, north of Airy street. Upon this lot, forty-one feet front by ninety-one feet deep, a two-story school house, a frame building, was built in 1839. It was the girls' grammar and secondary school from about 1843 to 1849.

Up to the time of the erection of the Oak street building, the pupils not accommodated in the Church street school were taught in rooms rented by the Board.

The basement of the old Methodist Church, still standing at 334 E. Main street, was used for that purpose. The lecture room of the Reformed Church, on Airy street, near the court house, was also used for a short time. A primary school was held in a frame building at about 315 Green street. The principal school house of the town, however, was in a two-story frame building that had been a stable, at the north corner of Mill and Lafayette streets. A grammar school and a secondary school, for boys only, were maintained there for six or seven years, ending in 1849.

Next in order of construction came what is really the nucleus of our present set of school buildings. The Oak street building was begun in 1849. The schools were opened in December of that year with an average daily attendance of about five hundred and seventy pupils and a force of thirteen teachers. To meet the ever increasing demands, enlargements were made in 1859 and again in 1868, but even with these additions

the building became so crowded that another building was required for high school purposes. The Oak street building has now sixteen teachers and can accommodate about eight hundred pupils.

Following up the buildings in the order of their erection, the next one was that at Sandy street. In 1851 a two-story four-room building was erected at the corner of Sandy and Walnut streets. In 1874 it was found necessary to enlarge this building, and at the present time there is being erected on this lot a thoroughly modern twelve-room building which will be equipped with all the modern improvements. This building is intended for grammar and primary grades, and will be known as the James A. Welsh School building, named in honor of Mr. Welsh, who has been a member of the School Board for more than a quarter of a century, and for a number of years Chairman of the School Property Committee. This building will be ready for occupancy September, 1905.

The Cherry street school building, at the corner of Cherry and Ann streets, was erected in 1852. It is a brick building with four rooms, and a capacity of one hundred and eighty pupils.

The colored Methodist Church was rented for use as a school for colored children from 1846 to 1852, when a frame building was put up on the corner of Green and Oak streets. The lot and building at Green and Oak streets were sold in 1874, and a one-story school house of two rooms, afterward three, was erected on the corner of Powell and Basin streets, large enough to seat one hundred and twenty pupils. In 1883 the separate colored school was discontinued, the building was sold, and the colored children were placed in the other schools near where they lived. While this change was largely owing to the wishes of the colored people themselves, I cannot help feeling that the old separate arrangement was the better one. We had in the Powell street school as high as one hundred pupils in the three grades. At the present time, even with the increased population, I am doubtful whether you can find more than one hundred colored pupils in all the schools of the town. The larger colored girls and boys would come to school when

they were with their kind. They were willing to go and read in the first reader when their companions of the same age were in the same grade, but after the change was made we found that they did not want to go into the "baby" room with six or eight-year-old white children, and they would not attend school. I cannot tell what becomes of the colored children now, I do not know whether they go away or go to work. We do not see them about town. All we know is that they do not increase in number in the schools, as one would naturally expect in a growing town. One reason given is that the older pupils go to work as soon as they arrive at the age of thirteen.

The Chain street school house is located at the corner of Chain and Airy streets, in the western end of the town, and was built in 1870. It is a two-story building with eight rooms, each calculated to seat fifty pupils. At present there are eight teachers in the building.

The Noble street school, on Noble street, below Marshali, was built in 1888. A part of the building was in use as early as March, 1889, and it was fully occupied in the fall of that year. At present it has a staff of eight teachers with accommodations for three hundred and eighty pupils.

The Manual Training school, on Oak street, adjoining the Oak street school, was built in 1892. This was a new departure and the movement has been so successful that more room is needed at this writing.

The John F. Hartranft School, located between Chain and George streets, near Airy, was erected in 1894. It has eight rooms, with a seating capacity for three hundred and sixty pupils, and is devoted to the first four years of the school course.

The Winfield S. Hancock School, one of our most attractive buildings in its external appearance, as well as its interior appointments, is situated on Arch street, the grounds running from Spruce street to Basin. It was built in 1897, and was put in use in September, 1898. The teaching force is ten in number, and the building has a capacity of five hundred and fifty pupils.

Latest in date of all our buildings, and finest in its appointments, is the DeKalb street High School. It was constructed

originally in 1880; and while in the beginning we filled the building by using it for third and second grammar grades (now known as the seventh and eighth school years), as well as for the first grammar and high school, yet as the years passed the building became inadequate even after removing the seventh and eighth year schools to other buildings. In March, 1899, the enlargement of the present building was begun. We continued to use the school, although under difficulties, during the time improvements were going on; and now we have entirely completed and in use a High School building of which we are justly proud. It contains in all sixty-seven rooms and affords every facility for higher education. The faculty comprises thirteen teachers, exclusive of the four special teachers whose time is divided among all the buildings.

The course of instruction in our schools comprises eight years in the grades and four in the high school. Co-education of the sexes was established in most of the schools in 1873, the first year of my service as Borough Superintendent. The last department to adopt the co-educational plan was the High School, where it was established in 1874, shortly after Mr. Eisenhower's election as principal. As the schools are at present arranged, Hancock, Noble street and Oak street, and the Chain street and Hartranft schools counted together as one, have represented in them all the grades up to and including the eighth year from which the pupils enter the High School.

Our course of study in both the lower grades and the High School, we think, is at least up to the standard of that in any other town of a corresponding size. Besides the usual English branches, there are taught in the High School Greek, Latin, French and German, and in all the grades music and drawing. The sewing course begins with the fourth school year, continuing for six years. Manual training covers a period of six years, beginning with the seventh year. In addition to the regular routine, we are sometimes able to give special preparation to those who are preparing for special work after graduation.

Excellent work is being done in our Manual Training school. I think few, if any, schools outside of the great cities can excel it, considering the time allotted to the work. This

opinion is confirmed by the exceedingly good reports which reach us of those of our boys who enter Pencoyd and other large manufacturing establishments.

The sewing department also is on a par with any known to us. The results shown are practical proofs of the value of teaching. In this connection it is interesting to note that the first course of study arranged for the Norristown public schools, as far back as 1836, included needle-work in the female secondary and High School. Truly, there is nothing new under the sun. A gold medal was awarded the Norristown schools at St. Louis Exposition for the excellency of the work on manual training, drawing and sewing on exhibition there.

While cooking has not yet been introduced into the schools as one of the branches of study, the finger of progress points in that direction. One of the rooms of the new High School was built with the idea of eventually using it for kitchen purposes.

Of late there has been a special effort made in free-hand drawing. The present method of teaching is considered unusually fine, not only by our own people, but also by strangers who visit the schools; and we are wonderfully pleased with the results that are being accomplished.

Vocal music has been a separate branch in our curriculum since 1870. There are two pianos in the High School; in some others there are organs. Some of these instruments in the earlier days were secured by the efforts of the pupils with the aid of the Board of Directors, and the remainder purchased by the Board alone.

The School Savings Fund has been in operation since 1890, during which time considerably over a hundred thousand dollars has been deposited in bank by the pupils of the various schools.

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

The Free Text Book System was adopted in 1878 in all the grades excepting the High School. In this department it was adopted a few years later. Previous to that time books were sold to the pupils at wholesale rates by the Board.

PAY PUPILS.

When the Academy was torn down and the lot sold, an act of Assembly was passed requiring the School Board to set apart a room in the Oak street building in which the higher branches were to be taught, including Greek and Latin. An opportunity was to be given to ten pupils residing in the county to attend this school at a sum not exceeding \$1.50 per month. This privilege is still extended to that number and taken advantage of by ten pupils of the county in attending our High School.

This amount does not pay the tuition, let alone the other extras that are given. The Board charges all other pay pupils \$3.00 per month below the eighth grade and \$4.00 per month for the eighth grade and the High School course.

THE WINNARD LEGACY.

The only record of this that I can find is in the Treasurer's book, where it is stated that a fund amounting to \$107.60 from what is called the "Winnard Legacy" was ordered to be applied to the purchase of philosophical and chemical apparatus, and this fund was spent for that purpose.

I remember about 1863 that Mr. Joseph Wilson, then principal of the High School, showed me some of the apparatus so purchased. Some of this was in use as long as it could be used.

Other apparatus has been added since that time. It appears that that fund was all used at that time.

We have one of the best equipped High Schools in electrical appliances in the country. The addition made to it by one of our former graduates, James P. McQuaide, of New York, has placed it on an equal footing with any High School of its size in the country.

A word as to the Board of Directors. When the public school system was adopted the Board was composed of six members, two from each of the three wards into which the town was then divided. This number constituted the Board until 1872, when four members were added; since that time two members have been added for each new ward that has been

created in the borough, until now the Board consists of twenty members.

The members of the Board that served the longest term were B. F. Hancock, 21 years; John Potts, 23 years; C. H. Garber, 13 years; General J. W. Schall, 13 years; W. E. Naile, 20 years.

Of the present Board the longest in service are the following: James A. Welsh, 27 years; Rush B. Smith, 20 years; W. W. Craig, 15 years (not now in the Board); W. H. Kneas, 17 years. Mr. Rush B. Smith is serving his seventeenth year as president of the Board. The next in length of service as president was B. F. Hancock, who served nine years in that capacity.

A list of members of the Norristown School Board serving previous to the year 1872, commencing 1834:

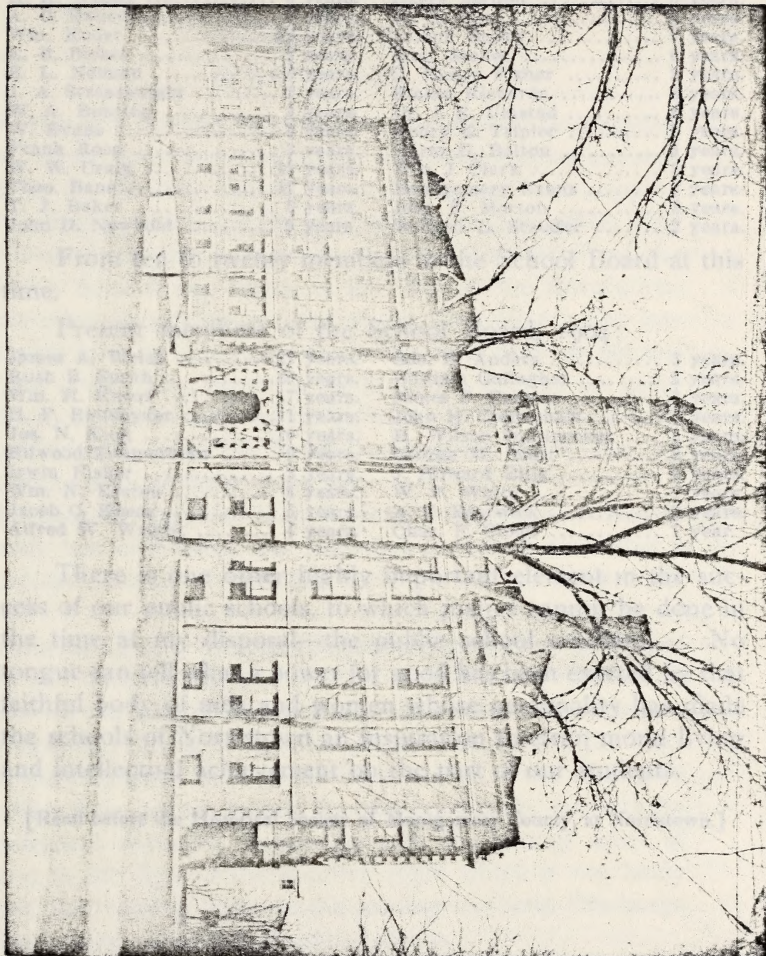
B. F. Hancock.....	21 years.	B. W. Hill	1 year.
Henry Potts	2 years.	Wm. B. Hahn	2 years.
G. W. Thomas	8 years.	B. E. Chain	4 years.
Wm. Powell	7 years.	C. H. Garber	13 years.
I. H. Miller	9 years.	John Jacobs	2 years.
David Sower	7 years.	Geo. Shannon	8 years.
Thomas Jolly	1 year.	Chas. Ramey	1 year.
J. Keesy	3 years.	M. McGlathery	2 years.
Adam Slemmer	9 years.	E. F. Jones	5 years.
Joseph Thomas	3 years.	Chas. Dean	1 year.
Christopher Heebner.....	6 years.	N. Jacoby	3 years.
Thos. W. Potts	2 years.	P. P. Dewees	5 years.
Addison May	3 years.	J. B. Dunlap	1 year.
Jacob Adle	1 year.	A. B. Longacre	3 years.
W. H. Slingluff	9 years.	J. Slingluff	6 years.
W. G. Kerr	2 years.	J. F. Hartranft	3 years.
C. Slingluff	1 year.	F. B. Poley	3 years.
R. C. Nicolls	1 year.	Wm. McCann	3 years.
J. H. Hobart	1 year.	Chas. T. Miller	3 years.
J. N. Evans	3 years.	Martin Molony	3 mos.
Geo. W. Stinson	1 year.	W. Stahler	1 year.
Thos. Scattergood	2 years.	A. H. Baker	8 years.
John Potts	23 years.	Jos. Ruch	3 years.
J. McNair	2 years.		

Six members constituted the School Board up to this time.

A list of members of the School Board since the year 1872:

James P. McQuaide.....	8 years.	H. R. Stephens	6 years.
James Shannon	2 years.	Joseph Rapp	3 years.
Joseph Shaw	3 years.	John Major	3 years.
E. L. Acker	4 years.	Elijah Thomas	1 year.
B. M. Boyer	1 year.	J. R. Harner	11 years.
John Jones	4 years.	Robert Griffith	5 years.
W. E. Neiman	3 years.	W. E. Naile	20 years.
John Nocton	3 years.	Walter H. Cooke	3 years.
J. W. Shaw	13 years.	Samuel Abraham	3 years.

Edison T. May	1 year	Thaddeus S. Agle	1 year
William G. Wright	10 years	J. P. Hale Jenkins	1 year
John McArthur	3 years	Geo. H. Kline	1 year
Lorena Shaffer	1 year	J. Barclay Hall	1 year
David Schall	17 years	William Lloyd Reed	1 year
W. D. Tamm	25 years	Edward Long	1 year
H. P. Tamm	1 year	J. C. Weber	1 year



NORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, 1904

Seldon T. May	9 years.	Thaddeus S. Adle.....	3 years.
William G. Wright	10 years.	J. P. Hale Jenkins.....	3 years.
John McArthur	6 years.	Geo. R. Kite	8 years.
Lorenzo Shearer	1 year.	J. Barclay Hall	6 years.
David Schall	17 years.	Willoughby Reed	3 years.
W. D. Yocum	10 years.	Edward Long	3 years.
B. F. Solly	9 years.	I. C. Weber	3 years.
H. K. Weand	6 years.	Harry Sechler	3 years.
A. G. Sweed	6 years.	W. A. Kite	3 years.
Wm. Kuder	12 years.	Joseph Bailey	9 years.
E. B. Bickel	3 years.	Wm. Stokes	6 years.
E. L. Neiman	6 years.	C. Henry Fisher	9 years.
J. A. Strassburger	2 years.	Emma Richards	3 years.
W. A. Bunting	3 years.	Dr. J. R. Umstad	6 years.
W. Evans	3 years.	Henry E. Tripler	3 years.
Frank Roop	3 years.	Harry G. Bolton	3 years.
W. W. Craig	15 years.	Wm. J. Clark	3 years.
Theo. Bane	12 years.	Montgomery Evans	3 years.
T. J. Baker	6 years.	John F. Morton	3 years.
John D. Newbold	9 years.	Wilfred L. Stauffer	2 years.

From ten to twenty members in the School Board at this time.

Present members of the School Board, 1904:

James A. Welsh	27 years.	Geo. R. Anders	3 years.
Rush B. Smith	20 years.	William Gallagher	3 years.
Wm. H. Kneas	17 years.	James P. Famous	3 years.
H. F. Reifsnyder	11 years.	John H. Crankshaw	3 years.
Jos. N. King	10 years.	H. Wilson Stahlnecker	2 years.
Ellwood Zimmerman	9 years.	George W. Watt	2 years.
Irwin Fisher	8 years.	J. Howard Ellis	2 years.
Wm. N. Easton	8 years.	W. P. White	2 years.
Jacob C. Kneas	5 years.	A. T. Eastwick	2 years.
Alfred W. Wright	4 years.	Chas. F. Cloud	1 year.

There is one other highly important element in the success of our public schools, to which justice cannot be done in the time at my disposal—the public school teachers. No tongue can tell what a power for good has been exerted by that faithful body of men and women whose personality has made the schools of Norristown an inspiration to clean moral living and intellectual achievement on the part of our students.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, at Norristown.]

1682, Holland conveyed 1000 acres to his son, John Holland. This tract was laid out to him by the Surveyor General of Pennsylvania, in 1707. Merion being the upper part of the lower township, then so called.

THE LAND OF THE LLEWELLYN AND CAMP DISCHARGE.

By S. Gordon Smyth.

Within our historic foreview are the sites of two martial camps. Both lie in this county only a few miles apart but separated by the dividing line of the Merions, and each topping the frowning highlands on the west side of the Schuylkill. One as far westerly of this point as its neighbor lies easterly of us; one was a determining factor in the War of the Revolution, and the other simply an incident of the Civil War. The former famed in song and story, the other its history as yet unsung; for it was but a ripple in the flood of events of the great Rebellion, and seemingly so insignificant by comparison with Valley Forge as to be but barely remembered, even now, by its acquaintances of forty years ago.

Between the dates of their respective organization almost a century has intervened, but into that period of time what a stupendous amount of national development has been compressed!

Because Destiny has placed these camps within our field of action, and inasmuch as one of them concerns our own times, and also for the sake of posterity who may wish to know something definite relating to it, it is our duty to declare the facts which contemporary history has furnished us. We shall give them therefore, as far as our limited knowledge permits, in chronological sequence, beginning with the setting apart of the land in the days of the founder, upon which it was lately situated, and coming down to the passing of Camp Discharge into the shades of neighborhood tradition.

In 1682 William Penn granted to "Joshua Holland, of Chattam, in ye county of Kent, Great Britain, marriner," 5000 acres of land in the province of Pennsylvania. Of this allotment, made by deed dated 14th and 15th of 6th-mo. (August),

1682, Holland conveyed 1000 acres to his son, John Holland. This tract was laid out to him by the Surveyor General of Pennsylvania, in Upper Merion [being the upper part of the lower township, then so called].

Again, by deed dated "ye 13th of Third-month, 1685," John Holland disposed of one-half of this grant to George Collett, Sr., of Clonmell, County Tipperary, Ireland. By the will of the younger Collett, who died in Pennsylvania in 1696, it was devised to his nephew, Nathaniel Pennock, son of Christopher Pennock, who had married Mary, the daughter of Collett, the elder, of Clonmell.

Christopher Pennock, who, as administrator of his son, who had died young and unmarried, transferred his estate of 500 acres "1st of 1st-mo., 1697," to Morris Llewellyn, Sr., of Haverford township, in Chester county, a Welsh immigrant of the preceding year, and who had come from Castlebith, Pembrokeshire, where he was born in 1645. Morris Llewellyn, Sr., was one of a number of Welsh Friends that had suffered many persecutions in his native land, for the non-payment of tithes. He is supposed to have married Ann Young before coming to America. He settled in Haverford with his wife and three children about 1686, and in time became one of the most prominent settlers in the Welsh Tract.

In 1708 his son, Morris, Jr., probably coming of age about that time, received from his father "in consideration of natural love and affection which he hath and beareth unto his son, ye said Morris Llewellyn, the younger . . . all that Plantacon known by the name of Indian ffields on the Skoolkill," . . . adjoining lands of Thomas Ellis, and others, containing 400 acres, &c., it being four-fifths of the original purchase made of George Collett, Sr.

At this time the elder Llewellyn was the owner of other parcels of land in the immediate vicinity; one hundred acres he purchased of James Thomas, Jr., son of James Thomas, "late of ye Parish of Lanboyen, yeoman"; and one hundred and thirty acres bought of Thomas Howell, brother of Francis Howell, both being sons of William Howell, of Lancillus, Carmarthon, Wales. These two tracts were part of a larger tract

of 1250 acres, located in "Merion," which William Penn had granted in 1682 unto Richard Davis, of Welshpoole, county of Montgomery, Wales. All these properties lying contiguous to each other, with the gift of Indian Fields from his father, were confirmed unto Morris Llewellyn, Jr., by William Penn under Patent dated 10th November, 1712.

Abutting landowners to the Llewellyn plantation at the date of the deed of confirmation were: William Haverd, Jonathan Jones, John Williams, Thomas Jones, Benjamin Humphreys, Robert Wharton and Robert Owen on two sides. The lower line of Mt. Joy Manor (the reservation of Laetitia Penn Aubrey) formed its northwestern boundary, while the Schuylkill river flowed along its northerly limits. So the "Plantacon of Indian ffields" lay in part on the warm slopes of the Conshohocken hills, but mainly in the valley at their base, a parallelogram half a mile in width and extending from the river inland over a mile.

Morris Llewellyn, Sr., had at least four children, three of whom are said to have been born abroad: David, Mary and Morris; Griffith, the youngest, was born in this province.

In reference to David, there is little to be said. In 1706 he was married to Margaret, daughter of David and Ellinor Lawrence, of Haverford. His second wife was Margaret Ellis, of Gwynedd. He was living, about 1709, on his lands in Merion adjacent to his father's and brothers' properties; it was a part of the Ellis tract. His neighbors were: Rowland Ellis, Robert Lloyd; his brothers: Morris and Griffith Llewellyn.

The family of Morris Llewellyn, Jr., consisted of his wife, Catharine, and five daughters; one of whom married Evan Evans and had a son, Morris Evans; Mary, who *m.* James Trueman, of Philadelphia; Cisly, who *m.* Alexander Crukschank, of Philadelphia, cordwainer; Elizabeth, who *m.* George Webster, of Philadelphia, butcher, and Catharine, the youngest, who *m.* Isaac Taylor, also of Philadelphia, carpenter, who was probably the son of the William Taylor that had been received by the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting from Clonmell, in Ireland, in 1718, "young and unmarried."

Mary Llewellyn *m.*, in 1694, Benjamin Humphrey, of Merion, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Rees) Humphrey. In these times the Humphreys owned almost the entire site of Bryn Mawr, which, as late as a generation ago, was known as Humphreyville. Mary Humphrey had six children—John, Joseph, David, Ann, Owen and Elizabeth.

Griffith Llewellyn, called the American, *m.* Elizabeth, daughter of Rees and Martha Aubrey Thomas, of Merion. In Griffith's will his wife's name is given as Mary. This may, however, have been due to a second marriage. Griffith's children were John, Mariania and Elizabeth. John, who was said to be "a surgeon of consequence and respectability in Lower Merion," *m.* Martha, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Harry) Thomas. Their children were Morris and Elizabeth. Elizabeth, daughter of Griffith, *m.* Capt. John Young, who commanded the Third Company in Col. Isaac Warner's Seventh Battalion of Philadelphia county militia, and is said to have been wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Germantown. Subsequently he became inspector of grain, flour and feed for Washington's army while it lay in the vicinity of Philadelphia. His brother, Capt. Llewellyn Young, commanded the First Company in Col. Warner's Battalion, and after the war resided on the Griffith Llewellyn homestead. Later he became a Justice of the Peace, President of the Pennsylvania Vine Company (Legaux's operation at Spring Mill), and was otherwise prominently identified with public affairs in the early days of Montgomery county's history.

Capt. John and Elizabeth Young had a numerous family, their children being Griffith, David, Thomas, William, Margerat, Elizabeth, Jane, Martha, who *m.* her cousin, W. E. Taylor, and John, who *m.* Sarah Hagy. This John maintained the military prestige of his forebears: he was a captain in the War of 1812. In this descent are also the late David D. Young, of Norristown; Samuel Young, Godfrey Young, of Lower Merion, and Dr. Chas. L. Young, of Wissahickon.

Griffith Llewellyn was appointed a Justice of the Common Pleas of Philadelphia county in 1744, and continued to serve

on the bench for several years. He died about 1752. David Harry, Jr., was one of the witnesses to his will.

John Llewellyn died intestate about 1786. It is probable that he had a son John that died in 1817 and whose estate was divided among his heirs about that time.

On the map of Lower Merion plotted by Levering in 1857 the estate of Griffith Llewellyn, which amounted to 400 acres at the date of his death, was broken up into small properties with their respective ownership vested in several of his descendants, among whom are found John Llewellyn, Thomas Rose, Ann, John and Martha Young, W. L. Underwood and the estate of Llewellyn Young.

John Llewellyn, who was rated in 1780 for 350 acres, is represented on the map by the properties of Heydrick Garrigues, John Llewellyn and W. H. Crawford.

Longitudinally through these various properties Young's Ford road, laid out in 1763 as Ap-Edwards road, wends its hilly and circuitous course from the lime-burning district beyond the Schuylkill toward the Merion Meeting.

To return to the affairs of Morris Llewellyn, Jr., from which I have for some length digressed:

There is still standing the old house, one of plain colonial type, which he built by the spring-heads at the top of the valley on the land he got of Thomas Howell, 130 acres, soon after taking possession of his 630-acre estate. When I saw it a few years ago the date stone bore this inscription, "C. & M. L., 1716," i. e., Catharine and Morris Llewellyn. This house, large even for its day, was, a generation later, duplicated in design, size and detail by an addition erected against its western gable by John Llewellyn, who set his mark upon a soapstone block indented within the wall of the new house and bearing these characters, "I. + L., 1750."

Travelers passing along the State road, which skirts the upper boundary of the homestead as it curves around the foot of Mine Hill and leads toward Gladwyn, will notice in the hollow below the road the two-story stone farm-house referred to on the bank of the brook running through the meadow. It is not as picturesque now as when I first saw it; its peculiar

attractiveness is gone; iconoclasm in the guise of modern restorative process has hidden the white tracing in the masonry, closed up the two great arches that reached to the second-story and seemed to support the front of the house, yellow-tinged stucco covers the ripened weather-washed walls beneath its plastic veneer and completes the ruin of that quaintness which had been its chief glory nigh unto two centuries.

It is a sturdy looking structure with walls built of rough flint rocks, gathered from the fields at hand, nearly two feet through. The framework, flooring and finish, unusually heavy and strong, were wrought out of timber grown upon the place. Its doors are of uncommon size and thickness, windows square and shutterless and lighted by small panes of glass. This, then, in brief, is the external description of the ancient building. The earlier Llewellyn built his barn higher upon the hill-side, planning, it is said, to have it convenient to a more imposing mansion he proposed to erect upon the knoll, but which was never done. When Heydrick Garrigues owned the farm the barn was torn away, and later its successor was destroyed by fire.

The home grounds from long years of neglect, frequent changes of tenants and a lack of æsthetic sense in them, were without adornment. There is no orchard, no garden, no shrubbery; no flower-bordered lawn delights the eye, nor is there anywhere anything to relieve the barrenness of surroundings or suggest the presence of those cheering out-door essentials so common a feature of the old homes of Merion.

With the passing years the Llewellyns were laid away, one by one, in the cedar-groved graveyard in a remote corner of the plantation, and if you will stop at the intersection of Young's Ford road and Stony lane and climb the high bank at the roadside you will find a few mounds marked to certain members of the Rose family who lived hereabout fifty years or more ago. As a place of sepulture for the Llewellyns it was abandoned a long time since, and the dust of those that laid there was taken to the "Old Dutch" cemetery at Ardmore, or to the burying-ground of the Baptists on the Gulf road north of Bryn Mawr.

Some of the Llewellyns were patriotic and parted from the way of Friends to serve and suffer in the War of the Revolution. Morris Llewellyn was a lieutenant and Dr. John Llewellyn a private in the militia, and a John Llewellyn again an ensign in one of the battalions of the Pennsylvania Line.

When the British ravaged the Merions in the winter of 1777-78 and laid heavy tribute upon the colonial partisans, John was damaged to the extent of £20, as it so appears in a list of inhabitants of Lower Merion who made claim for losses.

John Taylor, grandson of Morris Llewellyn, Jr., was living at the time in one of the old farm houses standing near Stony lane, and the following tradition, referring to the Merion raids, comes to me from one of his descendants. He relates that when the neighborhood was overrun by the foraging parties of both armies his great-grandfather, John Taylor, had several barrels of cider stored in his cellar until a troop of American horse came along one day and found it. They at once destroyed the cider, alleging that when the British came and should discover it they would get to drinking and while intoxicated might destroy the family.

In the inventory of John Llewellyn's personalty taken at the time he died, about 1786, an item is found for "one cyder mill and bed, valuation £10."

After the death of Morris Llewellyn, Jr., 1749, Indian Fields was devised by will to his four daughters, Mary, Cisly, Elizabeth and Catharine. By a resurvey of this property it was found to contain 375 acres as against 340 acres, the amount estimated and stated in their father's will. Sixty acres of the original patrimony had been disposed of before Morris' death and became a part of the present Crawford property. Since then these properties have changed title frequently and have been parceled out time and again; but we cannot follow further their varying fortunes, the subject is much too extensive and complicated for elaboration within the limits of this paper. In recent years, however, much that was disintegrated has become reassembled and again consolidated into the beautiful estates of wealthy but fewer owners. In this way the Llewellyn name has passed from them.

A small portion of the ancient plantation remains now in the possession of a descendant of Catharine Llewellyn, who *m.* Isaac Taylor. When this couple entered upon the enjoyment of her heritage, in 1755, her husband built a snug and pretty home with double-deck verandas on the sheltered hillside overlooking the ancestral valley. Here they reared their family, and here, too, Isaac Taylor constructed, in the house-yard a few feet away from the sunny porch, his burial vault, and into which he was laid in 1782. A large unlettered slab from the soapstone quarry beyond the opposite hill and hidden by a bed of wild lilies covers his tomb. His great-grandsons, John and W. J. Taylor, now own, live upon and cultivate the remnant of Indian Fields.

Just before the period of the Civil War, the Llewellyn tract, according to Levering's map, was represented by several farms, the owners of which were W. H. Crawford, George Pechin and William E. Taylor, son of John and grandson of Isaac Taylor; Wm. Stellwagon, Joseph Keech, William Hanna and Joseph Kirtner. The Hanna and Kirtner farms, side by side, adjoined the river and embraced the high ground above the Schuylkill, which then bore the name of "Breakneck Hill." Whether this is a corruption of Breaknock, the name of the shire-home in Wales, from whence came the Aubreys, and so applied to this hill, which adjoined the line of the manor of Mount Joy on the east, I am not prepared to say. It is a thought merely suggested to those who are curious as to the origin of place names.

It was while the war of the Rebellion was at its height, and the terms of a great many of the first enlistments were expiring, that the United States government selected this summit on the west bank of the Schuylkill for its special purpose.

Under orders from the War Department dated October 14, 1864, a post was established here for the accommodation of troops sent to this State for discharge or reorganization. There were many men who had been on detached service throughout the country; those who had been in prisons and in hospitals while their regiments were being mustered out, or be-

ing consolidated; convalescents and others, all however belonging to the troops of Eastern States serving in the Army of the Potomac. Many of them came from Andersonville and other Southern prisons, and in the most destitute, sick and miserable condition. But here the government meant to concentrate them while their record and pay were being made up in anticipation of discharge or re-enlistment; and they were not discharged until well and properly clothed and provided for.

The site chosen was the crown of the hill immediately above the houses of Joseph Lovett, on Kirtner's farm, and that of Wm. Hanna, occupied by him. The situation was airy, healthy and picturesque, if not ideal. The outlook commanded the view down the Schuylkill straight to Flat Rock; the White-marsh Valley, which opened between the flanks of Spring Mill heights and Lentz's Hill, spread away to the distant ridge; and the undulating country receding toward Bryn Mawr in its rear.

Major John Hancock, youngest son of Benjamin F. Hancock, Esq., of Norristown, and a brother of Montgomery's superb and beloved General, W. S. Hancock, fresh from the victorious field before Richmond, with the brevet of Lieutenant Colonel following him for distinguished service in that campaign—took command of the camp on October 20th, 1864, and at once proceeded with the preparation of the place and the erection of necessary buildings for the post.

A large force of men levelled the rough, uneven surface of the ground and transformed it into a terraced plateau, or parade. Around three of its sides were arranged in the form of a quadrangle the various buildings, and the parade open toward the river. At the angles of the earthworks thrown up at the outer edge were mounted two brass Napoleons that burst forth in thunderous rapture on the news of Lee's surrender, and at regular intervals sounded the reveille and sunset gun. On the occasion of Lee's surrender "a salute of one hundred guns was fired, and most of the patriots got drunk." Opposite headquarters rose the great flagstaff that bore the colors above the Sanitary Fair which was held at Logan Square, Philadelphia, the summer just past, and had been bought,

transported and set up by Major Hancock to bear the ensign of the post. The staff was said to have been 170 feet high, and its towering mast was visible for miles around.

In the month of November, 1864, the camp was ready for the reception of soldiers. It was christened "Camp Spring Hill," but this was changed later to the name by which it was officially and locally known—"Camp Discharge, near Philadelphia"—except on such times as when our facetious citizens dubbed it "Fort Hanna," for really, looking at it from the valley below, it had somewhat of a threatening and formidable appearance.

From the yards of Evan D. Jones, of Conshohocken, and Norman Egbert, of Soapstone, in Lower Merion, came the material which entered into the construction of the buildings that were of rough boards painted yellow. These consisted of post headquarters, which stood on the knoll just back of Jos. Keech's line, and about 500 yards in the rear of the stone house now occupied by Mr. Wood's farmer; field and staff headquarters, hospital, the quartermaster's and commissary departments, three or four sets of barracks for the men, ice house, stables, guard house, engine house and sentry-box; the latter having been lately presented to Howard Wood, Esq., present owner of the property, by Dr. Joseph K. Corson, of "Maple Hill."

The administrative departments flanked the executive offices at the upper end of the drill-grounds; the barracks, hospital and guard-house were on its two sides. Water was piped up from the old springhouse near Hanna's, and transportation was had over the Reading Railroad; the post using Lafayette station on the east side, and a convenient shack at the foot of Megg's lane on the west side of the river. The entrance was from the road which came up from the river, and at the gate was the large sentry-box.

The camp was inaugurated by the advent of the 95th Regt., Penna. Vols., who did not re-enlist, and detachments from the 187th and 197th Penna. Vols., and the regular routine of drill, guard mount, and other forms of duty were proceeded with

A few incidents connected with life at the camp during the

winter and spring of '64-'65 comes to me, and no doubt there are many other matters of interest amusing and otherwise which could be related. Some of our older residents tell of the escapades of the soldiers at Spring Mill tavern, and at William Penn village; and of the reign of terror inflicted upon the quiet citizens of Conshohocken by the derelicts of the post when on the "booze," when the provost marshal's squad was not an unfrequent sight upon the highways of our peaceful borough. And how the soldiers cleared out the Nixon family from their home, which stood on the site of Dan. Foley's restaurant.

Of the robbery of the camp stables when harness, blankets and other equipment were stolen and never recovered. Of the almost fatal accident which befell a sergeant from the post, who walked off the end of the pavement at the foot of Fayette street into an unguarded quarry hole, near Summer's store, which, says "Wide Awake," the local correspondent of the "Norristown Herald-Free Press and Republican," "was carelessly left exposed by our Borough Fathers." The sergeant suffered some broken bones and was otherwise so badly bruised and shattered that his death was expected.

Of the loss, by fire, of the express car on the Reading Railroad, at Spring Mill, from sparks blown into it from the engine. In this case "the soldiers from Camp Discharge rendered valuable assistance," as did also the neighbors, one of whom is reported to have said that he procured enough clothing from the salvage of the goods "to last him to the end of the war, *if the war lasted forever!*"

Of the partial destruction of the great flagstaff, which lost its topmast by a stroke of lightning.

Of the daring "hold up" of Colonel Hancock by William Little, a tale which comes to me upon the best authority. It appears that Colonel Hancock was in the habit of rowing up and down the river between the post and the home of his people at Norristown. To do so he was obliged to pass through the locks. Those at the lower end of Conshohocken were in charge of James Little, who was also an assistant to Martin Dolman, superintendent of the Norristown division. On many

of these trips of the Colonel the locks had been tended by William Little, then a small boy, son of James; and usually it was a gratuitous service as far as the officer was concerned until it happened that the river pilots teased the boy about the lack of compensation, and suggesting that, as it was against the rules of the Navigation Company, he should make Colonel Hancock pay up. The next time the Colonel came down the canal and entered the lock, the boy was there, as usual, and opened the gate which let the boat into the chamber. When the water had been let down to the lower level the boy did not open the gate, and for once the Colonel was a prisoner where escape seemed impossible. To the officer's surprise and amused remonstrance the boy coolly told him that he must give the toll or he would have to keep the Colonel there until it was paid. Colonel Hancock good humoredly fussed and objected, and told the boy he was very daring; but finally capitulated by giving up a dollar which he affixed to the boat hook young Little soberly passed down for it.

A cholera scare alarmed some of the people in the vicinity of the camp, but it proved to be nothing more than a mild disorder which appeared among the soldiers after their return from the hardships of the campaign. Smallpox also broke out in the camp, and while there were but two such cases, and one of them of a confluent type, no spread of the disease took place; nor were such precautions taken as are to-day deemed necessary; but both cases, however, were treated in a detached hospital.

In the spring of 1865 a force of men from Conshohocken, whose names I have, were employed in the further grading and extension of the drill-grounds. All were paid at the rate of \$1.50 per day.

At this time a large body of troops were in camp, but it has been impossible to get an estimate of their number, or to what particular organization they belonged. They are described by one of my informants to have been "a heterogeneous collection." Government has compiled no roster of the post and my investigations to that end have only been in part rewarded.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Joseph K. Corson, of Plymouth Meeting, whose information on the matter has been very helpful to me, and by the exceeding kindness of Mrs. Carrie B. Kilgore, attorney-at-law, of Philadelphia, and widow of Damon Y. Kilgore, Esq., formerly captain and assistant quartermaster of Camp Discharge, I have been permitted the use of her late husband's papers. With these and the war records of officers, as found in Heitman's Register, I have compiled a partial roster and record of the officers and men at Camp Discharge during the last few months of its existence. This data is subjoined as a foot-note to the narrative.*

During the summer of 1865 the camp is said to have had a band of musicians, but I find no record or definite information substantiating the statement. However, the camp was enlivened socially by the presence of the families of some of the officers, and by a continuous visiting of friends and others. The post ambulance would frequently bring gay parties over the river to scenes of social festivities in Conshohocken, or to patronize the ice cream parlors along Fayette street.

The close of the war brought a speedy disbandment of the post. By orders from the War Department, dated July 19th, 1865, it was discontinued, the camp broken up, and whatever guards or troops that were then there were transferred to Camp Cadwallader, a recruiting rendezvous located on Islington lane, on a plot now bounded by 19th, 22d, Berks and York streets, in northwest Philadelphia.

The buildings and camp effects were sold, I am told, at auction. George Bullock, who was then a most enterprising and public-spirited citizen—withal he lost an election to Congress the fall before—bought the barracks, moved them over to Front street, in West Conshohocken, and set them up as dwellings for his mill hands. Samuel Fulton did practically the same in Conshohocken. The flagstaff was cut down, but rose again from its new location in the yard of Bullock's Balligomongo Mills, and here, I may add, parenthetically, it stood till 1889,

*I should like to add, just here, that I am also under obligations to Howard Wood, Esq., of Conshohocken, and to others, for useful and valuable data furnished me in the preparation of this paper.

when the destruction of the wool room by fire partially consumed it as well.

Colonel John Hancock now lives in Washington, D. C., and is an official in the Pension Bureau. After the first few weeks of preparation at Camp Discharge he went to reside in the stone house on the hillside, just below the post. Here, in the summer following, came his family. There were eight children, and one of these is said to have been born here. His eldest daughter, Laura E., since then has become (in 1873) the wife of Hon. W. R. Merriam, who was Governor of Minnesota, 1889-1892, and Director of the U. S. Census, 1898-1903.

The dispersion of the material remains of Camp Discharge are almost absolute. Except for the lone sentry-box, already referred to, which stands in a sheltered spot near Mr. Wood's home, and the grass-grown parade and undisturbed terraces overhanging the bluff, nothing is left.

Howard Wood, Esq., within recent years, has bought all this property upon which the post stood, with much of its picturesque surroundings. He has emphasized nature's handiwork and so treated the landscape as to bring out its charms, and thus has transformed it into a park-like land, upon which he makes his summer home, and which, with wise and honorable consideration for its later day history, he calls "Camp Discharge."

Partial Roster of Officers and Men at Camp Discharge:

Col. John Hancock, of Penna., Post Commandant. Asst. Adjt. Gen. Penna. Vols, 2d Lieut. 49th Pa. Inf. 29th Nov., 1861; Capt. and Asst. Adjt. Genl. Vols. February, 1862; Major and A. A. G. Vols. March, 1863; Brevt. Lieut. Col. Vols. 2d Dec., 1864, for distinguished service during the present campaign before Richmond, Va., and Colonel Vols. 13 March, 1865. Hon. Must. out 1st Sept., 1866.

Major Joseph K. Corson, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa. Actg. Asst. Surgeon at Camp Discharge from Nov. 15th, 1864, to May 15, 1865. Brevet Major Vols. 13 March, 1865, for faithful and meritorious service in the Wilderness campaign in Va. Hon. must. out 11 June, 1864. Asst. Surgeon, U. S. A., 9th

Oct., 1867; Major and Surgeon 14 Nov., 1888. Awarded Medal of Honor 21 April, 1899, for most distinguished gallantry in action near Bristol Station, Va., 14 Oct., 1863, while serving as Asst. Surg. to 6th Penna. Res. (35th Pa. Vols.); retired 30th Nov., 1897. Post Surgeon.

Capt. Albert S. Ashmead, of Pa., Post Quartermaster, 1st Lieut. and Asst. Quartermaster 29th Pa. Infantry, 1st July, 1861; Capt. and a. q. m. 5th May, 1863. Hon. must. out 11 Nov. 1865.

Capt. Henry Clay Pike, Post Inspector Genl. Capt. 2d Vet. Ohio Cavalry.

Capt. Damon Y. Kilgore, of New Hampshire, Post Quartermaster. Capt. Wisconsin Vols. and a. q. m. 30 July, 1863. Hon. must. out 25th August, 1865. Died 25th April, 1888. Capt. Kilgore was with Sherman in his march to the sea, and had charge of the ordnance train under Major General Thomas. Assigned to Camp Discharge in March, 1865. Afterward a well-known lawyer of Phila. His wife, Carrie B. Kilgore, enjoyed the unique distinction of being the first woman to study law, as a profession, in this country. After a determined but successful struggle she was finally admitted to practice in the Orphans Court of Phila., in 1883; and in the Common Pleas Courts the following year. Since which time her practice extends to all the courts of Penna.; and in the Supreme Court of the U. S.

Capt. Geo. W. Hooker, of New York. Post Adjutant. Capt. and A. A. G. 4th Vermont Inf. 1st Aug., 1864; brevet Major and Lt. Col. Vols. 4th Nov., 1865, for gallant and meritorious service. Hon. must. out 4th Jan., 1866. Awarded Medal of Honor 17 Sept., 1891, for having rode alone in advance of his regiment into the enemy's lines at South Mountains, 14th April, 1862, and before his men came up received the surrender of a Confederate regiment with colors and 116 men. Died 6th Aug., 1902.

Surgeon Rush Vandyke, A. A. S., U. S. A.; Post Surgeon.

Capt. D. P. Billington, Co. G, 186th Pa. Vols.

Capt. Harry Clements.

Capt. C. W. Mutchier, Co. H, 187th Pa. Vols.

Lieut. M. G. Hutchinson, 1st Lt. 18th N. H. Inf. Jan., 1863. Brevet Capt, for meritorious service in battle at Chickamauga, Ga. Died 23d Jan., 1896.

Lieut. George S. Walker, 2d Lt. Co. K, 187th Pa. Vols.

John Lyons, Post Chief Clerk.

Augustus A. Wilder, Post Clerk.

George Merrill, Post Storekeeper.

James P. Heaton, Post Engineer.

Arthur M. Kilgore, Messenger.

Enlisted men of Co. H, 187th Pa. Vols.:

William H. Berkey,	John Wolford,
John Berkey,	John Ream,
Alex. F. Berkey,	Harmon W. Lape,
Joseph Seiders,	Henry J. Wolf,
John L. Hunt,	Andrew J. McReynolds,
Israel Sieders,	Tristram Smith,
William S. Hall,	Samuel D. Bortel, Corporal.

[Read at the meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society,
February 22, 1904.]

THE COPPER MINES AT SHANNONVILLE.

By I. C. Williams, Esq.

The purpose of the present sketch is to furnish a few of the leading facts only relating to what at one time promised to become a leading industry in this locality. A complete history must be reserved for a later effort.

About one hundred years ago the residents of this neighborhood were stirred from time to time with reports of mineral wealth supposed to exist along the hills of the Perkiomen in the last three miles of its course. Copper ore was found at different surface outcrops and later investigation disclosed lead. At the present time it is not known who is entitled to the honor of the discovery. Probably a search of the newspapers published then in this part of the State, or some old diary, might disclose this interesting bit of information. Samuel Wetherill sunk shafts near the mill. He found ore, but not in paying quantities. Later, along Mine Run, a sufficient body of copper ore was located to make their search a good business prospect. We know that about 1830, possibly a year or two earlier, two English miners, John and Robert Rowe, sunk shafts in pursuit of the prospect. Stephen Girard was interested to the extent of having a shaft sunk, with but little success, and he abandoned further efforts.

Numerous changes in ownership followed until what was known as the Perkiomen Mining Association had charge of the works north of the road leading from the Perkiomen creek to Shannonville, now Audubon, and the workings on the south side of the road were managed by the Ecton Consolidated Mining Company. The substantial stone buildings which became so conspicuous a landmark were erected about the year 1848. An air of business was imparted to the community. Miners from Cornwall, England, were imported to work in the mines. Rows of frame houses were erected for their use, and the

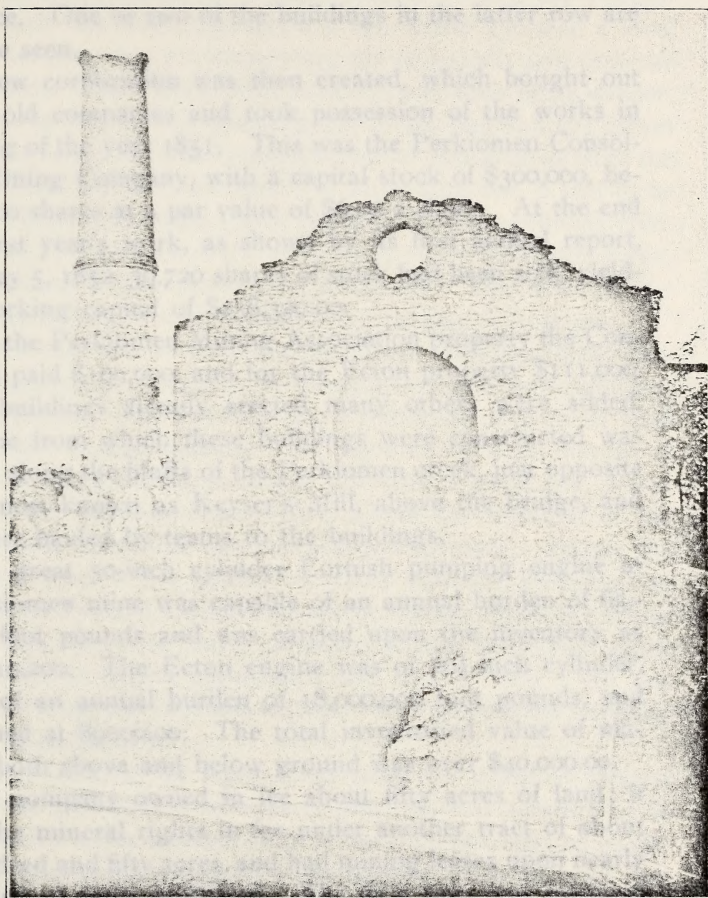
nucleus of a prospective town appeared. One row of these miners' cottages was along the north side of the above mentioned road just east of the bridge over Mine Run. A second row was situated along the opposite side of the same road about one-eighth of a mile further on toward the store and post office. The village of Shannonville was then still to be seen.

A new company was then created, which bought out the two old companies and took possession of the works in the spring of 1851. This was the Perkiomen Consolidated Mining Company, with a capital stock of \$300,000, being 500 shares at par value of \$600 each. At the end of the first year, 1852, the company reported a profit made May 5, 1852, of \$20,000, after paying all expenses, including a working capital of \$10,000.

For the first year the company paid dividends of 100%. To the shareholders the company was a success. The stock was sold at a premium of 50% and was obtained at a price of \$900 per share. The company was what is called a "hot" company, and the shareholders were from the "hot" class of the community.

The company was a success, and the Perkiomen mine was one of the most successful of the copper mines of the country. The company was worth \$1,000,000. The Perkiomen engine was a 100-horsepower engine capable of an actual output of 100,000 feet of shafting. It was valued at \$100,000. The total value of the machinery was \$1,000,000. The total value of the mine was \$1,000,000.

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AT THE MOUTH OF THE SHAFT
SHANNONVILLE COPPER MINES

FROM PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON

nucleus of a prosperous town appeared. One row of these miners' cottages was along the north side of the above mentioned road just east of the bridge over Mine Run. A second row was situated along the opposite side of the same road about one-eighth of a mile further on toward the store and post office. One or two of the buildings in the latter row are still to be seen.

A new corporation was then created, which bought out the two old companies and took possession of the works in the spring of the year 1851. This was the Perkiomen Consolidated Mining Company, with a capital stock of \$300,000, being 50,000 shares at a par value of \$6.00 a share. At the end of the first year's work, as shown by its first annual report, made May 5, 1852, 39,720 shares of stock had been sold, yielding a working capital of \$238,320.00.

For the Perkiomen Mining Association property the Consolidated paid \$109,000, and for the Ecton property \$111,000. To the buildings already erected many others were added. The stone from which these buildings were constructed was obtained along the bluffs of the Perkiomen creek, just opposite what is now known as Keyser's Mill, above the bridge, and from there hauled by teams to the buildings.

The great 50-inch cylinder Cornish pumping engine at the Perkiomen mine was capable of an annual burden of 65,000,000 foot pounds and was carried upon the inventory as worth \$10,200. The Ecton engine was of 20½-inch cylinder, capable of an annual burden of 18,000,000 foot pounds, and was valued at \$9000.00. The total inventoried value of machinery both above and below ground was over \$40,000.00.

The company owned in fee about fifty acres of land; it owned the mineral rights in fee under another tract of about one hundred and fifty acres, and had mining leases upon nearly one thousand acres additional. The first tract was grouped about the mine shafts, the second extended in a narrow strip from the banks of the Perkiomen below Mill Grove across the peninsula in a southeasterly direction, and terminated at the banks of the Schuylkill opposite Valley Forge, while the third group lay north of the second, inclosing the first, and extend-

ing nearly three-fourths of a mile up the Mine Run ravine and over the adjacent hillsides to the north and northwest in the direction of the Perkiomen creek.

The levels, or horizontal tunnels, running out from the main shaft were carried to great length. When the Perkiomen shaft was down 240 feet and the Ecton 330 feet, a level 1800 feet long was run connecting the two shafts and thus the two mines. Both shafts were in later years sunk much deeper, that of the Perkiomen reaching nearly 500 feet and the Ecton over 600 feet. A tunnel was run into the Ecton shaft from the base of the hill near the mouth of Mine Run and is still to be seen. From this issues a flow of water, constant and very cold.

For about six years the work was pushed with great vigor, and upwards of 200 miners were employed. They were for the most part Cornish and occupied the company's cottages.

It is regretful to state that the mines never paid their way. The company is charged with extravagance and unbusinesslike management. The workings were continued until about 1858 when they were abandoned. During the first eight months of active work, however, it raised 525 tons of good ore, which yielded the company \$30,575.00. From the situation of the mines their operation was necessarily expensive. To get the ore to market it was hauled by teams from the pit-mouth to the Green Tree, in Upper Providence, thence down the Umpstead lane, now the Davis property, to the Schuylkill canal, where it was loaded upon boats and sent to New York and Baltimore by way of Philadelphia. No facilities for smelting could be had nearer.

It is believed by many from what the company reports show and the reports of experts, that there is somewhere in this locality a considerable body of ore such as would be profitable if worked economically under modern methods, with railway and smelting facilities at hand.

Some rare minerals have been found at the Shannonville mines. According to the Pennsylvania Geological Reports, twenty-four different species have been detected and described. Silver is found in quantities ranging from five ounces to ten ounces per ton. Other common ores are native copper, galen-

ite or lead sulphide, sphalerite, an ore of zinc, in colors yellow, brown and black, and both iron and copper pyrites. The rarest is libethenite, phosphate of copper, which is probably not found elsewhere in the State. Some are remarkable for the richness and beauty of their colorings, among which are wulfenite, malachite, and azurite.

Many persons of prominence were connected with the company in one or another capacity. George Cadwallader, of Philadelphia, was president of the Board of Directors, and the others for the first year were Charles Macalester, David Longenecker, Samuel F. Tracy, and Horatio Allen. The manager or superintendent on the grounds was Charles M. Wheatley. Captain Joseph Vivian, of Cornwall, England, was associated with them as an expert, and submitted to the company at its start a favorable report, which is dated at "Mill Grove House, April 30th, 1851." Many of the stockholders lost heavily in the venture. It is said that George Cadwallader, the president, was the heaviest loser, his holdings amounting to a hundred thousand dollars, or more.

It might be interesting to know that among the names of real estate owners in the locality at that time we find William Casselberry, William McHarg, Charles Shannon, Jacob Kulp, John and Joseph Francis, George Highley, Charles Corson, Samuel Gumbes, Dr. William Wetherill, and Evan Waltz. All have passed away, but their memories are household possessions among our older citizens.

The writer desires to acknowledge the receipt of valuable information contained in the first and second annual reports of the Consolidated Company, which reports were kindly lent him by his friend and fellow-member of the Society, Mr. William H. Richardson, of Jersey City.

[Read by Henry W. Kratz, Esq., for the writer, at an out-meeting of the Society held at "Mill Grove House," the home of Audubon, on October 7, 1903.]

THE REV. DR. JOHN BACHMAN,*
AUDUBON'S COLABORER.

By Rev. Michael Reed Minnich, A. M.

The fame of Audubon has gone throughout the world. Historians and scientists have alike delighted to do him honor. His name is a household word.

That his colaborer has not been given equal place in history and among men is due principally to the supreme modesty of the man. Modesty is a good quality, but when it permits history and fact to be obscured, it is not to be commended.

John Bachman laid no great stress on his descent, but frequently said to his family, "I rejoice that I have come from excellent stock; for good, pure blood shows itself in men, as well as in animals, and thus far I prize it."

His paternal ancestor was a native of the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. His first American ancestor was the secretary of William Penn. His maternal progenitors came from the kingdom of Würtemberg, Germany. He was the youngest son of Jacob and Eva Bachman, and was born in Rheinbeck, Dutchess county, N. Y., February 4, 1790.

He early displayed a taste for Natural History.

He entered Williams College, Mass., but on account of a hemorrhage of the lungs, brought on by too close application to his studies, was obliged to leave before graduating. The degree of A. M. was afterwards conferred upon him by his *alma mater*. It was his original determination to study law, but was finally led to study theology under pastor Braun. While studying for the ministry he defrayed his expenses by teaching; one year at Frankford; a second at Elwood School,

*Dr. Bachman's whole library and all his collections in Natural History, the accumulation of the labors of a long and industrious life, were burnt by the Federal Army during the Civil War. The very few exceptions, that were saved by accident, fell into the hands of another member of his family. The loss to the scientific and historical world by this piece of vandalism cannot be estimated.

near Germantown; and a third in Philadelphia, when he was licensed to preach. He served the three congregations which formed Gilead Pastorate in his native county one year, when he accepted the pastoral charge of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Charleston, where he remained until his death, February 18, 1871. He was D. D., LL. D., Ph. D., and other degrees.

It is not without reason that his life is regarded as one of the most efficient service to his country. His pastoral efforts and work in general, in the various churches, and in the various one bears in mind the duties, burdens and the pastoral work. Quietly, unobtrusively and with a sense of his various work.

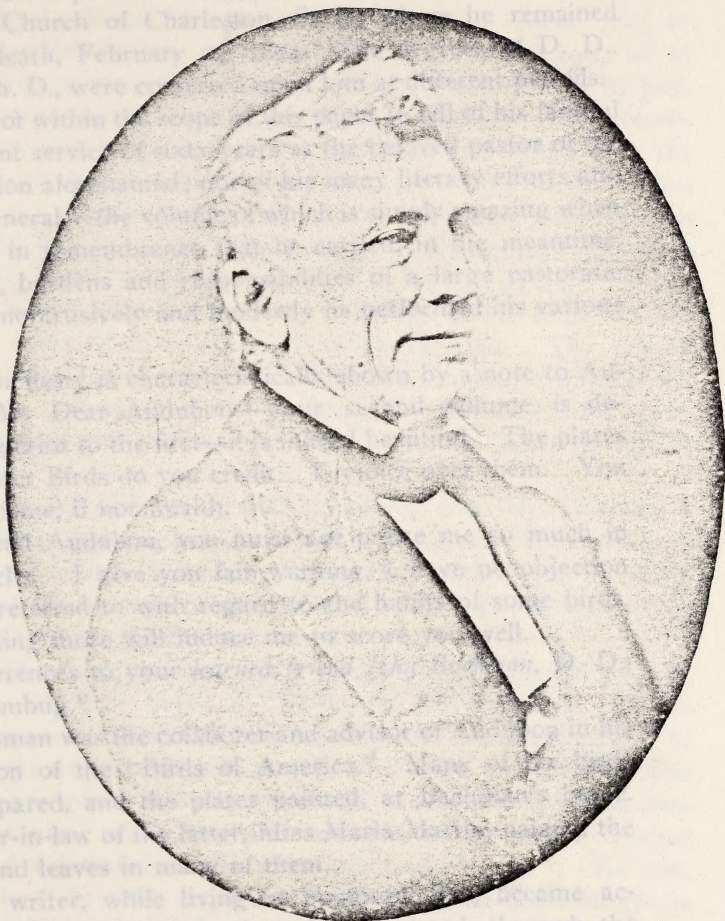
His mother, Mrs. Bachman, wrote to a friend, "Dear Mother, I am sure that your heart is decidedly in favor of the cause of the poor. The plates of the West Side to be taken from the poor. You will reap the fruit of your labors."

"Friend Anderson, you must not be so much in your article. I am sure you have been much in to being reproached with regard to the high school, but anything else will not do to score. Your references to your own work are all humble."

Bachman was the compiler and adviser of the preparation of the Birds of America. Many of the birds were prepared, and the plates marked, of the birds. The sister-in-law of the artist, Miss Maria Allen, made the flowers and leaves in some of them.

The writer, while living in the city, became acquainted with many of the facts related through the friends and informants. The Rev. John Bachman Haskill.

We learn from Mr. C. Few Seiss, a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Delaware Valley Ornithology.



REV. JOHN BACHMAN, D.D.

near Germantown; and a third in Philadelphia, when he was licensed to preach. He served the three congregations which formed Gilead Pastorate in his native county one year, when he accepted the pastoral charge of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Charleston, S. C., where he remained until his death, February 24, 1874. The degrees of D. D., LL. D., Ph. D., were conferred upon him at different periods.

It is not within the scope of this paper to tell of his faithful and efficient service of sixty years as the beloved pastor of the congregation aforementioned; nor of his many literary efforts and work in general,—the volume of which is simply amazing when one bears in remembrance that he carried, in the meantime, the duties, burdens and responsibilities of a large pastorate. Quietly, unobtrusively and modestly he performed his various work.

His modesty is characteristically shown by a note to Audubon: "My Dear Audubon—Your second volume is decidedly superior to the first—it is indeed beautiful. The plates of the Water Birds do you credit. I rejoice over them. You will reap fame, if not wealth.

"Friend Audubon, you must not praise me so much in your articles. I give you fair warning, I have no objection to being referred to with regard to the habits of some birds, but anything more will induce me to score you well. . . . Your references to your *learned friend John Bachman*, D. D., are all humbug."

Bachman was the colaborer and advisor of Audubon in his preparation of the "Birds of America." Many of the birds were prepared, and the plates painted, at Bachman's home. The sister-in-law of the latter, Miss Maria Martin, painted the flowers and leaves in many of them.

The writer, while living in Staunton, Va., became acquainted with many of the facts herein stated, through the friends and ministerial associates of Dr. Bachman, as well as through his appointed biographer, the Rev. John Bachman Haskill.

We learn from Mr. C. Few Seiss, a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Delaware Valley Ornitholog-

ical Club, of Philadelphia, of the reminiscences of his father, the Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Seiss, who in his early ministry was a personal friend of Dr. Bachman, that they had exchanged visits and that the old Doctor paid him a visit while he was pastor of the Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Md., about 1855 or 1856. Dr. Bachman informed Dr. Seiss "that nearly all of the text of 'Audubon's Birds of America' was written by him. Audubon would send rough notes and items, often accompanied with bird skins, to Dr. Bachman, who would write the scientific descriptions and life histories of the birds. Also that the greater part of the flowers and plants introduced in Audubon's plates were the work of Mrs. Bachman (the Miss Maria Martin frequently mentioned), his second wife. Audubon would often send merely drawings of the birds without any decorations, foreground or background. The artistic floral displays added by Mrs. Bachman constitute much of the beauty and value of the plates. He pronounced his name Backman, not Bächman, as many scientists insist on calling him."

In the autumn of 1831 Audubon, with Mr. Lehman, a landscape painter, and Mr. Ward, a taxidermist, spent a month under the home-roof of the Bachmans. Here began the warm friendship between the two scientists that was afterward to be cemented by closer ties.

In a letter written at the conclusion of this visit to Mrs. J. J. Audubon, dated at Charleston, November 15, 1831, at the request of her husband, he expresses his gratification "to become acquainted with a man who knew more about birds than any man now living—and who, at the same time, was communicative, intelligent, and amiable, to an extent seldom found associated in the same individual." . . . He continues, "We were engaged in talking about ornithology—in collecting birds—in seeing them prepared, and in laying plans for the accomplishment of that great work which he has undertaken. . . . He taught my sister, Maria, to draw birds; and she has now such a passion for it that, whilst I am writing, she is drawing a Bittern put up for her at daylight by Mr. Audubon."

December 2, 1831, he wrote to Audubon, "I wish that you could have been with us a month longer; you were scarcely gone before the birds came from the north. . . . I am sure that we would have kept you, Lehman and Mr. Ward all busy. . . . However, the spring will do wonders, and we will astonish you with our new specimens."

Scientists had their tilts and stories as well as fishermen.

Bachman in his "Defense of Audubon" (Bucks county Intelligencer, 1835), who had been assailed by Watterton about a "Snake Story," says the latter "tells us of the great 'Boa'" which he encountered in his den. "Dashing forward headlong upon the Boa, he pierced him with his lance, and tying up his mouth carried him as a trophy to the British Museum. The snake was so large that it took three men to carry it, and so heavy that they had to rest ten times."

Another time Watterton encountered alone a snake ten feet long. "He seized him by the tail, the snake turned round and came after him with open mouth. . . . In this emergency he put his fist in his hat, and rammed it down the snake's throat. Suffering the snake to wind itself around his body, he walked home in triumph." Yet this was the man who accused the American Ornithologist of exaggeration.

Time and space permit only the most brief extracts from letters written by Bachman to Audubon, from Charleston, S. C. The letters have been preserved and copies of them, in full, may be found in the Biography of John Bachman, as completed by his daughter, C. L. Bachman, and published by Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co., Charleston, S. C., 1888.

December 23, 1831, the weather was "almost insupportably cold." He tells of the "Red Tailed" and "Sparrow Hawk." "I found the Solitary and Brown Thrushes, about five of the Woodpecker family, the Robin, the Ruby-Crowned Wren and some of the Duck family abundant; but there was nothing new—nothing even rare, except a Duck, nearly white, which puzzled me. . . . This duck may be described; but I do not recollect anything that looks like it in Wilson."

"I arrived in Columbia, S. C., almost too late, for the 'House' had just resolved that the State was too poor to sub-

scribe for Audubon's work. I felt that it would be a disgrace to the State; and for the first time in my life I turned to electioneering. And now, behold me among the back countrymen spinning long yarns. The thing, however, took, and your book is subscribed for. In addition to this, a party from the interior has given his name, and Prof. Gibbs has hopes that our plan of twelve subscribers for a copy will secure another set for Columbia. I can, at least, say our prospects are brightening; but I dare not be too sanguine, as I do not want to promise more than I can perform. . . . Look here, my friend, before I forget it, why are you always talking of a 'load of gratitude'—now suppose we say no more about this."

"Tell Henry Ward that I will never make an attempt at painting, but that I am beginning to stuff birds. . . . My sister Maria paints birds better every day."

October 20, 1832, "My sister Maria has made several drawings which she thinks of sending you; but I am anxious to retain them for awhile in hopes that you may be tempted to come for them yourself.

"Ever since you left us I have been studying up my Ornithology in order to be useful to you, and, if I am spared, I hope to be so. . . . I cannot, I find, feel myself at home with new birds without having the skins to refer to. . . . I shall, next week, write all I know about the *Fringilla* I found last spring. If you have received my last letter you will perceive that another new *Fringilla* has been discovered. I shot it a few weeks ago, and have a skin for you. Maria made a correct drawing of it. . . . What ducks that are not likely to be obtained for you in Boston would you like Maria to draw for you?"

October 20, 1832, "I have several skins of the new *Fringilla* at your service. . . . And now, let your good lady mix you a half-tumbler of claret with a little sugar, and listen to what I have to tell you. I have another bird for you; aye, my friend, and one that will interest all lovers of Ornithology. Dr. Strobel brought me from Key West a box of birds—I tumbled and tumbled over the ragged specimens—nothing new, till I came to a little fellow, and what should he be, but a

Trochilus (Humming Bird), not yet figured, . . . so we have now *two* Humming birds."

November 11, 1832, "The new Humming Bird, I believe to be the 'Trochilus Mango,' or Mangrove humming bird, described but not figured in Shaw's Zoölogy. I hope that we may manage to have this bird figured—when I say 'we' I mean 'you' and my 'amanuensis,' Maria. I have nothing new to tell you in the shape of birds—the history of the new birds, as far as I know them, will be faithfully detailed, as soon as I return from my annual (church) tour. . . . I will send you all the birds that I have a right to; the Humming Bird and the Sparrow, and the drawings and skins of the rest. Maria has figured for you the 'White Hibiscus,' and also a Red one, both natives, and beautiful."

After the exchange of several letters and the birds and drawings had been received and acknowledged by Audubon, Bachman writes March 13, 1833, "Sister Maria feels grateful to you for your too flattering opinion of her efforts. I take it, however, as a compliment to *myself*, inasmuch as though I did not *use the brush*, I occasionally gave *advice* generally; however, after the drawings *were finished*. In answer to the question, did she execute the drawings? I have only to say, 'all *that she did not do* were done by *your humble servant*.'"

The letters of Bachman are full of interesting items, and his facetious allusions to Audubon as "old Jostle" and his son Victor as "young Jostle," or "Jostle No. 1"; and John W. as "Jostle No. 2" are amusing. Both of these young gentlemen afterward became his sons-in-law. John W. first marrying the elder daughter Maria in 1837, and Victor G. the second daughter Mary Eliza in 1839.

They (letters of Bachman) are so full of interest that it is difficult to know where to stop. But time admonishes us to be brief. We have to content ourselves with the principal items that show his connection with the "Birds of America."

We must forego the pleasure of reciting his visit to Europe, the cordial reception given him there by Audubon, and their mutual rejoicing upon becoming grandfathers; the journey to Scotland with Audubon, his reception by distinguished

personages, and his election as "foreign correspondent of the Zoölogical Society, London."

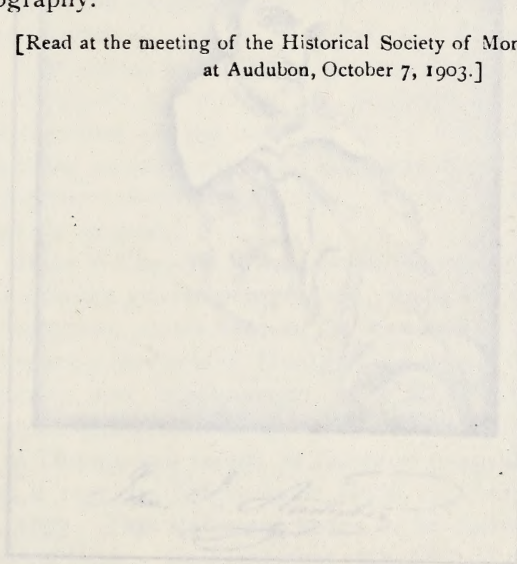
Audubon's personal acknowledgments were profuse, but Bachman insists, "' your worthy friend,' and other humbugs, may be left out to advantage." "Bachman's Warbler," described by Audubon, was named after his friend.

The several members of both families were called into requisition in the preparation of their conjoint works.

Between 1845 and 1849 they published jointly "The Quad-rupeds of North America," 3 Vols. "Figures by Audubon, Text by Bachman."

The list of his published works is too numerous to give in this connection. They may be found in the appendix of his biography.

[Read at the meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County,
at Audubon, October 7, 1903.]



PHOTOGRAPH FROM PORTRAIT BY WILLIAM M. BICKNELL

AUDUBON AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS.

By Hon. Henry W. Kratz.

To-day (October 7, 1903) being the fourth anniversary of the neighboring hamlet, Shannonville, receiving the name Audubon, in honor of the distinguished ornithologist, the Historical Society of Montgomery County has made a pilgrimage to the "Millgrove Farm," on the Perkiomen creek, once the house of John James Audubon, now the residence of our esteemed friend, William H. Wetherill, to hold its autumn meeting. The society has come to this beautiful and historic shrine upon the kindly invitation of Mr. Wetherill, and, at his request, fixed the time of the meeting upon this anniversary day. Within the environments of "Millgrove Farm," it is said, are reminiscences of the Revolutionary war which, if correct, make it historic ground.

Major William H. Bean, now in the military service of the United States government, in his publication of local historical researches, states that in the movements of Washington and his army throughout Montgomery county during the Revolutionary war headquarters were established at Fatland, Lower Providence township, on Saturday, September 20, 1777, and at Thompson's tavern, in Norriton township, which, I assume, is now the Jeffersonville Hotel, on Sunday, September 21st, 1777. This statement seems to be corroborated by the following letter. On September 19th, 1777, Washington wrote from Parker's Ford to the President of Congress: "I am now repassing the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford with the main body of the army, which will be over in an hour or two, though it is deep and rapid. As soon as the troops have crossed the river I shall march them as expeditiously as possible towards Fatland's, Swedes', and other fords, where it is most possible the enemy will attempt to pass." This statement is further

corroborated by Governor Pennypacker in his "Phoenixville and Vicinity," in which he says, "that on Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock on the 21st of September, 1777, the British army entered Schuylkill township and encamped along the Nutt's road, from Fountain Inn to Fatland Ford." The researches of Major Bean contain a chronology giving clear understanding of the movements and whereabouts of the American army from the date of its entrance into Montgomery county, on September 19, 1777, to the date it left the county, June 20, 1778, on the way to fight the battle of Monmouth. Millgrove Farm also acquired some military importance from its ownership by John Audubon, the father of the naturalist, from the fact that he was an admiral in the French navy, and, after returning to the United States, became attached to the army under General Lafayette. The data gathered for my paper on Audubon and his achievements I have gleaned from his journals, the paper of D. L. Crater read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County March 24, 1897, from W. H. Richardson's publication in the Philadelphia Press of February 13, 1898, entitled "Audubon's home on the Perkiomen," and from local sources. John Audubon, the father of the ornithologist, purchased the "Millgrove Farm," consisting of 285 acres of land, of Augustus Prevost, on the 8th day of March, 1789, and continued in its ownership until 1804. The appurtenances consisted of a comfortable and commodious mansion house, grist mill, saw mill, and other buildings. The Millgrove dwelling house, a solid stone structure, stands on a rising knoll commanding a lovely view. It was built in 1762, remodeled and beautified since that time, and now more than ever adorns the Millgrove Farm on the Perkiomen.

John James Audubon, the ornithologist, was born in the territory of Louisiana, near New Orleans, on the 4th day of May, 1780, on his father's plantation. His mother was of Spanish descent, and it is said possessed large means, and was very beautiful. John Audubon, the father, owned an estate on the island of St. Domingo, to which he took his family while John James was a small boy. In one of the negro revolts that occurred on the island Audubon's mother perished,

and the remainder of the family fled to Louisiana. Some time afterward John Audubon returned to France, taking his children with him. He soon married again, and John James was left in charge of the only mother he ever remembered.

His step-mother was an exceedingly good-natured woman, enjoyed life, took the world easy, and by her indifference to the boy's training and discipline she came near spoiling him. He was allowed to roam the fields and woods, and early evinced a love for birds. When he returned home at night after his day's ramble he would have his basket filled with birds nests, birds' eggs, moss, and pebbles, that he had gathered. He was so much in love with nature that he neglected his books. When seventeen years old, Audubon had made a series of two hundred drawings of French birds. Young Audubon was urged by his father to become a sailor, a cadet in the French army, or an engineer; but he declined to enter upon any one of the suggested pursuits. Audubon's father, seeing the bent of his mind, sent him to America when eighteen years old, to occupy the "Millgrove Farm," on the Perkiomen. This change from the gay French capital to a farm in America, with beautiful fields, dense woods, and classic streams, opened up an earthly paradise for the youth, who could now hunt, fish, admire and study Pennsylvania birds to his heart's delight and satisfaction. He therefore departed from his home in France for his new home in America in the year 1798. On landing at New York he was stricken with yellow fever while walking to a bank in Greenwich street to get the money to which his father's letter of credit entitled him.

Captain John Smith, who commanded the ship that brought him from France, took charge of him and placed him under the care of two Quaker ladies who kept a boarding house at Morristown, New Jersey. To their skillful and untiring ministrations, he said, he owed the prolongation of his life. As soon as he was well enough to be moved, Miles Fisher, of Philadelphia, his father's agent, removed him to his home. When fully restored to health, Audubon, accompanied by Mr. Fisher, started for the Millgrove Farm, on the Perkiomen, which was then occupied by a Quaker named William Thomas.

They arrived that day about sunset. Miles Fisher left the next morning. Young Audubon then took possession, under certain restrictions, which amounted to his not receiving more than enough money per quarter than was considered sufficient for the expenditures of a young gentleman. Audubon's life at the Millgrove Farm was very simple. He ate no butcher's meat, and never drank a glass of wine until his wedding day. He had an aversion to much eating and drinking, and therefore seldom went to dinner parties. He lived chiefly on milk, vegetables, with an occasional fish, or game, which with a great deal of outdoor exercise gave him a strong constitution. Valley Forge, from its historic associations, and its lovely scenery, had a peculiar charm for him, and he often rowed across the Schuylkill river and spent the day rambling over the valley hills. Many of his rarest specimens of birds were found in the woods by the redoubts and trenches of Washington's camp. Besides hunting and fishing he would ride on horseback, studying the habits of birds, and collecting specimens, many of which he stuffed and mounted. In the evening he would sit by the open fire place and draw or paint his beloved birds. The old grist mill, with its great overshot water-wheel, which Audubon said was to him a source of great joy, still stands. There were a great many birds' nests in and around the mill. In the face of the rocks back of the house was Audubon's cave, scooped out of the solid rock by the hand of nature, where the pewees and martins built their nests in early summer, and where the naturalist sat and watched them at their work.

He would often on hot days do his sketching and painting in the cave, as it was delightfully cool and quiet. It was in that cave that he first saw and learned the force of parental affection in birds. Then he was taught most forcibly that to deprive them of their eggs, or young; was an act of cruelty. It was while on the "Millgrove Farm" that he conceived the project of publishing his work of "Birds of America." What a grand opportunity he had upon so sublime a spot as the "Millgrove Farm," on the Perkiomen, to prosecute the labors of his chosen calling. Here was forest with beautiful foliage,

and singing birds, fragrant and charming flowers, broad fields with growing crops, and the cooling water of the Schuylkill and Perkiomen; all of which he declared he loved. It would seem that nothing more was needed to inspire love for the beautiful in nature. But in course of time it turned out that his love was not altogether exhausted by the enchantments of nature, for about a quarter of a mile away on the Fatland Farm lived Lucy Bakewell, the charming daughter of William Bakewell, with whom he shared his affections. They became engaged to be married. Too young to enter married life, as he thought, his future father-in-law advised him to go into trade, to which he consented. He took Bakewell's advice, went to New York and embarked in business. Failing in the venture, he came back to the "Millgrove Farm." Upon his return he found that during his absence one Da Costa, whom his father had sent to develop lead mining at "Millgrove," and to teach him in mineralogy and mining engineering, had arrived; but Audubon said that he knew nothing about either.

This man, in the attitude of a monitor, assumed authority over Audubon in the matter of his contemplated marriage. Audubon rebelled, and at once concluded to go to France and secure parental consent to the step he was about to take. Audubon demanded money of Da Costa to make the journey to France. After some hesitation, Da Costa finally agreed to give him a letter of credit on an agent in New York named Kauman. Audubon, it is said, walked the entire distance to New York. Upon his arrival there he was told by Kauman that he had no money to give him and disclosed Da Costa's treachery by hinting that Audubon should be seized and shipped to China.

He, however, obtained money from a friend and set sail for home. He remained in France about a year, spending his time chiefly in collecting specimens of birds. During that time he completed two hundred drawings of European birds. Having received the parental consent to marry Lucy Bakewell, Audubon, accompanied by Ferdinand Rosier, sailed for America. Reaching New York in safety they soon arrived at Millgrove. On the 8th of April, 1808, Audubon was married at

the bride's residence, at Fatland Ford. So says his biographer. After his marriage he left Fatland Ford for Louisville, Kentucky. After remaining there some time he went to Henderson, one hundred and twenty-five miles farther down the Ohio river. He continued his travels through many of the Southern States, remaining quite a long time along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico; went as far north as Maine and Labrador, and west to the Yellowstone river, where he found many specimens that greatly pleased him. Audubon made his last visit to Millgrove Farm on July 26, 1824. After sojourning in various sections of America in pursuit of specimens of American birds, he finally started for Philadelphia with a portfolio containing over two hundred sheets filled with colored delineations of about one thousand birds. He went to England in 1837, and finished his biography of birds. The next year he completed his drawings and explained them to such ornithologists as Cuvier, Humboldt, and others, who honored him with great praise for the wonderful work he had accomplished in ornithology. He also exhibited his drawings to the public in the galleries of the Royal Institution of Liverpool with so much recognition that the display of the riches of American birds, in kind and plumage, was repeated at Manchester and Edinburgh to the admiration of all who saw his most excellent delineations. From these exhibitions of his long and successful labors he became better known to many people than were the distinguished naturalists Nuttall, Ord, or even Charles Bonaparte. Audubon was determined that his work should eclipse every other publication of its kind. Every bird was to be delineated life size; and to each species an entire page was to be devoted. The high character of the work gradually became known, and a sufficient number of subscribers was at length obtained in Great Britain and America during the ten or twelve years that the work was going through the press, to indemnify him for the great cost of the publication; leaving him, however, a very inadequate compensation for his great industry and skill. The first volume was published in New York, in 1830; the second in 1834, the third in 1837 and the fourth and last in 1839; the whole consisting of 435 colored

plates, containing 1055 pages of life size birds, and costing, it is said, at least \$100,000. The publication was doubtless the most magnificent of its kind ever given to the world; and it is well characterized by Baron Cuvier as the most magnificent monument which had ever been erected to ornithology. Among his patrons in Europe were the kings of England and France, and many other prominent people. Among the eminent men in America who recommended his work were Daniel Webster and Washington Irving. In the book entitled "Birds of Pennsylvania," prepared by Dr. B. H. Warren, who was the ornithologist of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture in 1890, and published by authority of the Commonwealth, he frequently referred to Audubon as authority on certain birds, their nests, eggs, and habits. As to the existence and preservation of Audubon's "Birds of America," reliable authors say that his original drawings are in the possession of the New York Historical Society, and may be seen at Number 170 Second avenue, New York. The Astor, Lenox and Mercantile Libraries, of New York; Mrs. J. Bloomfield Wetherill, of Smithville, Long Island, and Dr. Russell, of Hartford, Connecticut, each have a set. But it is said the best preserved set is in the possession of William H. Wetherill, the present owner of the Millgrove Farm. But Audubon, while ultimately successful, had to contend with disappointments and even misfortune. After his father's death he fell heir to \$17,000. He deposited that money with a merchant in Richmond, Virginia. The merchant some time afterward failed and became insolvent. And, it is said, that Audubon lost the entire amount. In 1823 two hundred of his most valuable drawings and paintings were destroyed by fire; and the product of his labor and study lay in ashes. But, after two or three days of despondency, he took new courage and proceeded to repair his loss. He began to teach drawing, dancing, and music. With his earnings from these sources, and the financial aid received from his wife, he resumed his work. Audubon had wonderful perseverance and zeal. In this respect he may be compared with Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith, who mastered eighteen ancient and modern languages, together with twenty-two Eu

ropean dialects by employing his leisure time, known as "odd moments."

With Martin Luther, who, during an interval of thirty years, published seven hundred and fifty volumes of elaborate works, outside of his vocation, by doing a little every day, and also with Cicero, who pursued his philosophical studies during the hours that others devoted to pleasure and pastime, at no time did he flinch in his work. Efforts were made to divert his mind from his drawings and the study of birds to business. He at one time yielded, and embarked in a certain enterprise and utterly failed. He then resumed his work in ornithology, and pursued his labors on his "Birds of America" to completion. Like many others, he would not be swerved from what he believed to be his true calling. The power of genius cannot be curbed. They tried to bury Michael Angelo, but the gold of his genius shines out in the marble of Moses upon the walls of the Sistine Chapel. The effort was made to turn down Turner in Maiden Lane; but the splendor of his genius also shines round the world. Put Defoe in jail, and Robinson Crusoe is written. Put Penn in prison, and "No Cross, No Crown" comes from the quiet cell. Incarcerate Luther in the Wartburg, and the Bible is translated into his native tongue. From these examples of the development of the forces of genius, planted there by the Creator, we learn the important lesson that such powers of the mind and intellect should not be obstructed or hindered. That when genius discloses the vocation that should be chosen, in that line full preparation should be made, and no one should bar such pursuits of work by discouragement or objection; and because this is too often done, many persons mistake their callings in life.

Audubon came back to New York in October, 1839, where he spent the last years of his life. He named his place of residence "Minni Land," Minni being the Scotch name for mother. About one-half of his estate, consisting of 24 acres of land, was known as "Audubon Park." In 1848, it is said, Audubon's mind entirely failed him; and because of this affliction it became necessary to have an attendant accompany him in his daily walks. He died January 27, 1851, at the age of seventy-

one years. He was buried in Trinity Cemetery, adjoining his home, where his wife Lucy in also buried. In April, 1893, a monument to his memory was unveiled at Amsterdam avenue and 115th street, New York. Thus ended the wonderful career of the great ornithologist, John James Audubon, who so often was made happy by the story of his favorite birds at the "Millgrove Farm," on the Perkiomen.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, at Audubon,
October 7, 1903.]

The subject matter of my paper is confined largely to within a radius of one mile from this point. After some investigation I soon learned that this territory is rich in historical data, traditions and reminiscences, and that a large subject confronted me. But the short time allotted me in which to prepare this paper compelled me to pass over the various subjects in a rather hasty manner.

This section of the country in its primitive form must have been extremely beautiful. Its rivers, creeks, wood covered hills and its valley all added to its grandeur. Is it any wonder that this pretty country early in its history attracted the white man? The native Indian for centuries past made this a place to pitch his wigwam and enjoy the chase. The crude implements of these early people are found here in abundance and bear all evidence of this.

Mount Joy and Mount Misery, the names applied to the two high hills south of this point, and visible from here, are historical places. Their location is on the south side of the Schuylkill river, and their names were given to them in Colonial times by William Penn, Esq. A party headed by him, in the year 1701, on their return from a visit to Warwick furnace, were lost on Mount Misery. When they crossed the Valley creek and saw the Schuylkill river, they knew where they were, and joy overcame them. Then they called this point "Mount Joy."

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AUDUBON.

By Dr. W. H. Reed, of Norristown.

ITS HISTORY, TRADITIONS AND REMINISCENCES.

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In 1699 a party of Englishmen formed themselves into a company styled "The Pennsylvania Land Company in London," and purchased from William Penn, some five thou-

sand acres of land within the confines of the Schuylkill river, Perkiomen creek, Norriton township and lands of James Morgan. At this time or a little earlier permanent settlement of this country began by the white people, and from this time on the country grew rapidly in settlement and development. This early land company of London were not settlers here but were only speculators in these lands, whose ultimate purpose was to sell the lands for profit.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER.

Its early navigation, some accounts say, led to the only recorded naval battle ever fought on this stream.

Before the construction of dams and the digging of the canal by the Schuylkill Navigation Company to deepen its waters, in 1829 or 1830, the Schuylkill river for the transportation of goods was used to a limited extent only; this was done in shallow or flat-bottomed boats. The stream originally possessed a great number of shallow rapids or shoals, which during low water made it impassable for boats drawing any depth.

These shallow boats, from the settlements up the Schuylkill, were found at that time meandering their way slowly to Philadelphia, the market for the produce of these early settlers. As early as 1730 people who resided above this point, and navigated the stream, made complaint to the Colonial authorities at Philadelphia of dams, racks, and other obstructions placed in the Schuylkill (particularly at the point above the mouth of Perkiomen creek) by shad fishermen, thereby making navigation dangerous and hazardous, and asked for redress.

In 1738 these obstructions became so numerous that the authorities were compelled to act in the matter and have them removed. Constables, William Richards, of Amity township, and Robert Smith, of Oley township, of Philadelphia county (now Berks county), armed with warrants and aided by a posse called to their assistance, making three large canoes full of men, and armed with implements of destruction, started down the river on their errand. All went well with these officers

and their men until they arrived at the mouth of Pickering creek, opposite (now) Port Providence. Here the officers met on the shore at this point persuasive objections from some inhabitants who had gathered. The work of destruction by these authorities went heedlessly on. The deposition of Constable Richards, in his affidavit, says: "Right after this was done about the number of two hundred men came down on both sides of the river, who were rude and abusive, and threatened this deponent and his company. . . . From the language and threats given that some mischief or a quarrel would issue. The deponent took his staff in his hand and his warrant, and commanded the men in the King's name to keep the peace, and told them he came there in a peaceable manner and according to law, to move the racks and obstructions in the river. Upon which some said, blame the laws and the law-makers, and cursed this deponent and his assistants. One James Stare knocked the deponent down into the river with a club or stake. After which several of the men attacked this deponent and his company with large clubs and knocked down the said Robert Smith, the constable, and several of his assistants. One John Wainwright, in company with the deponent, was struck with a pole or staff and lay as dead, with his body on shore and his feet in the river. That the deponent and company finding that they were not able to make resistance were obliged to make the best of their way in order to save their lives. After which this deponent in company with the Constable of Oley and some of their company proceeded down the river in order to make complaint of the ill-usage they had received. As they came near the Perkyoman (Perkiomen) creek they found another set of racks, which were guarded by a great number of men. This deponent and company requested the said men to let them go down the river, and if they would suffer them to pass that they wouldn't meddle with their racks. The said men abused and cursed this deponent in a very gross manner, telling the said deponent and his company that they should not pass by them. One of the men called out aloud and offered five pounds for Timothy Miller's head, the said Timothy being one of the deponent's assistants. An-

other called out for Timothy to make haste away. Afterwards the said men pursued this deponent and company, who for fear of being murdered made the best of their way to the mouth of Parkyoman creek, went ashore and left their canoes with several clothes. These canoes since were split to pieces (as reported) and several of the clothes turned adrift in said river."

'OLD FORDS—FATLAND FORD.

Fatland Ford is a very interesting place historically. This ford was much used by the early settlers of the Colony as a safe and convenient place to cross the Schuylkill river. It was widely known, and when speaking of this locality Fatland Ford was the name usually applied to it. The ford took its name from the rich and fat land that bordered the stream.

This ford was brought into prominence during the American Revolution. Here the larger portion of the British forces, under the command of General Howe, succeeded in crossing the stream on their way to Philadelphia, in the year 1777.

During the occupancy of the Valley Forge hills by Gen. Washington and his army, in the winter of 1777 and 1778, the Commander-in-Chief assigned General Sullivan to the building of a bridge over the Schuylkill river at this point. The bridge was completed in February, 1778. The advantage derived from its construction was important, as it at all seasons and conditions of the stream gave the American army an uninterrupted passage and communication with this side of the river.

The kind and character of this bridge is best expressed in General Sullivan's own language in a letter by him to the General Assembly, in 1778:

"Providence, November 20th, 1778.

"Gentlemen: As I had the honor to direct the construction of a bridge over the Schuylkill, near Valley Forge, and as I wish it to stand for the benefit of the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, I take the liberty of recommending the filling up of the piers or boxes with stones; also, a number of stone round the boxes to prevent the sand washing away round the sides. The

precaution being taken, I flatter myself the bridge will stand 'til the lumber decays.

"I have the Honor to be with

"Great respect, Gentlemen,

"Your Honor's Most obedient and

"Respected Servant.

"Honorable Assembly of Pennsylvania. Jno. Sullivan."

The General Assembly neglected to follow this advice, and take the necessary precautions, as suggested by General Sullivan, until in the beginning of the year 1779. In that year Major John Edwards of this neighborhood was requested, in a communication from the General Assembly, to visit the bridge, and get an estimate as to the probable cost of the work, as outlined by General Sullivan. In Major Edwards' report, dated Providence, January 12th, 1779, he says: "I went to see the bridge, and to my surprise find that three of the piers are totally carried off by the ice and the fourth shattered greatly, which happened on the night of the 9th inst."

Nothing now remains of this old ford and bridge, but a stone has been planted on each side of the Schuylkill river to mark the site. These were placed here through the instrumentality of Mr. Wetherill, an estimable gentleman and former owner of the property, and only through his thoughtfulness has the location of this historic and interesting landmark been preserved. An avenue—known as Washington's lane—leads the visitor to this spot from the main road on either side of the Schuylkill river.

Sullivan's bridge was used for the last time by General Washington and his army at the same time of their evacuation of Valley Forge, in the spring of 1778. The whole army at this time crossed this bridge, marched over the ground where we stand to-day, and a portion of the forces made their camp for the night in Norrington, a short distance above (now) Norristown. Some of the heavy laden ammunition teams while passing out the Egypt road, a short distance beyond the (present) village of Audubon, and on the property of (now) Albert Crawford, became stalled, and the drivers unloaded in a field a quantity of leaden bullets and iron cannon

balls. At this day numbers of these balls are turned to surface by the ploughman.

PAWLING FORD.

This we learn was a very old ford. It dated its beginning with the early settlement of this section of the country, and was located on the Schuylkill river a short distance above the present Pawling Bridge. To reach the ford from the east side of the river the traveler had to pass over a road which traversed the Pawling property. This ford was never considered a very safe one, a slight rise in the river making it dangerous and impassable, and in order to overcome this difficulty, and for greater convenience, a ferry was erected and operated at this place by the Pawlings about the beginning of the Revolution. By this means teams, cattle, etc., were at all times safely carried across in a boat.

The following advertisement, describing this ferry and offering it for sale, appeared in the Norristown "Register" under date of November 27th, 1806: "At private sale. A ferry on the Schuylkill, with 8 acres of land, situate in the township of Charlestown, Chester county, commonly called 'Pawling's Ferry.' . . . Boat and tackle in good order, constructed on the most improved modern plans. . . . The location equally calculated for a lumber yard, store and tavern. Inquire of William Pawling and Michael Lynch, owners."

Later on the ford and ferry at this place were superseded by a bridge. The bridge was erected by the Pawling Bridge Company, which was organized in 1809, and secured its charter in 1810 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A petition for the change of the course of the road at this point in the Court of Quarter Sessions at Norristown, in 1810, recites: "A company for the purpose of erecting a permanent bridge across the Schuylkill, near Pawling's ford, and the site for building the same is several perches below where the present road leads to the ferry, asks for a jury to lay out a new road leading from the road leading to Pawling ferry, to commence at the garden of John Pawling, thence to the new bridge on the river Schuylkill."

This first bridge at Pawlings had but a short duration. It was destroyed by an ice freshet in 1820. The bridge was immediately rebuilt, and it still remains, and as a landmark is widely known throughout this locality.

VANDERSLICE'S FORD.

This ford, located on the Perkiomen creek, is a very old one, and derives its name from an adjoining property owner named Vanderslice, whose farm bordered this stream at this point. It was on the road leading from Norristown to the Phoenix Iron Works, about three-quarters of a mile west of Audubon, and near the present bridge over the creek. Ever since the early settlement of this section of the country this was one of the most traveled fords crossing the Perkiomen, and was largely used by the people coming over this road to Philadelphia from the inland settlements above this point.

This, too, was a dangerous ford; the channel of the creek here was treacherous, especially during the winter and spring months of the year from high water and ice. As early as 1815 the courts were petitioned by the inhabitants of Upper and Lower Providence townships for relief from this danger, and asked for a bridge over the creek at this point. Petitions and counter petitions followed, and the matter was thus fought in the courts, but not until the year 1834 was relief obtained, and the present covered wooden bridge built.

An event which possibly led to the building of this bridge was the sad case of drowning which took place here on November 30th, 1831. The unfortunate person was Joseph Shrawder, of Upper Providence, an employe of Abel Fitzwater, a prominent man of this locality. At the time of the accident he was on his way home from market, and not imagining the stream swollen to a dangerous depth, ventured in the water. The wagon in which he was seated was upset by the swift current, and before assistance could be rendered, he met a watery grave.

Another story is related of this ford in which a woman under circumstances similar to those of Mr. Shrawder's death came near losing her life. She was crossing the stream in an open wagon and had also miscalculated the depth and fury of

the water. When about half-way across she found the swift current carrying her rapidly down the stream, and becoming alarmed she screamed for help. One of the Vanderslice boys hearing her cries, quickly mounted a horse, rode to the stream, and forced the horse in the surging waters. When he reached the side of the floating wagon, the woman handed him a bundle to take care of. "D—— your bundle," he said, "I am after you," and grasping her by the waist, drew her from the wagon and carried her safely to shore.

The boys of this family were noted characters. They were strongly built, full of daredevilment, shrewd and fearless. An illustration of their shrewdness is thus given. One son had a horse which the father admired and wished to secure by trade. The son refused at the time; but later on said to the father, "If you are still ready to trade, I will trade you." The father looked down the field from the house, and saw the son's horse standing in the shade beneath a clump of trees. Then he gave his consent; the trade was made; and the son went to the stable, mounted his newly acquired horse, and rode off. The father, who was aged and feeble, took his cane and walked to the place where his horse was standing. Then he saw that the horse was made to stand erect with props, and that it was dead. The old man's ire immediately rose; he demanded a gun of his help, and mounting his horse, went in search of his son.

MILL GROVE FORD.

This ford crosses the Perkiomen creek but a few rods below the Millgrove mill. It is on the road which leads from the main road from Audubon to Pawling bridge, passes through the Millgrove property to the Perkiomen creek, and crossing the stream near the Millgrove mill, joins the Phoenixville road at the village of Oaks. This is a public ford and an open highway, although the road on the western side of the creek is at present fenced in by the property owners. It is, however, difficult of access on the Millgrove side of the creek, because of a steep hill, and as the channel of the creek is treacherous and has been at all times considered too dangerous

by the public for general use, it is very little used, or may by this time have been entirely abandoned.

This ford is a very old one, and was probably first brought into use by the original owners of the Millgrove property early in the eighteenth century. The Millgrove farm consisted at first of land located on both sides of the creek. After the severance of the tract of land situated on the west side of the creek from the Millgrove property by John James Audubon, in 1806(?), this was the only outlet or lane to a public thoroughfare that the Ambler farm had free from sufferance until the road was opened through these lands by the court in 1850.

Mr. Samuel F. Jarrett relates this story pertaining to the Millgrove Ford: "I was born on this (Ambler) farm, and as a small lad attended school at 'Jack's,' an old school house that stood across the road from this meeting house where we meet to-day. To get to and from school we had the Perkiomen creek to ford at Millgrove, and usually made the trip across the water on horseback. Father would ride in the middle; I would sit in front of him, and my older brother Jesse in back, both holding fast to father, and when the stream was full of water we held our feet as high as possible to prevent them from getting wet."

Mr. Jarrett has often heard his father relate this experience of crossing the stream at this point: On a late return home at night with a team of five horses, after a sudden rise in the creek, there were times when the whole team of five horses would be swimming, and the wheels of the floating wagon would tip or grate over the stones on the bottom of the creek as the rapid current carried it down stream.

SOME OLD FAMILIES—THE PAWLING FAMILY.

Possibly the oldest and the most conspicuous of the early settlers who left their impress on this locality is the Pawling family. Henry Pawling, the elder, came here about 1730, and purchased over 500 acres of land at the junction of the Perkiomen creek with the Schuylkill river. He came to Pennsylvania from Marbletown, Ulster county, New York, at which place he was born in 1689. On June 26th, 1713, he married

Jacomyntje Kuntz, and to them were born five children: Henry, Sarah and Elizabeth, born in New York, and Levi and John, born at Perkiomen (Pawling) in Pennsylvania.

Henry Pawling, the elder, died at the Pawling homestead, at Pawling, on August 30th, 1739, and is buried at St. James' Episcopal Church, Perkiomen (Evansburg). He was a warden of St. James' Episcopal Church, a man of ability and influence, and took considerable interest in public affairs. He was of a progressive turn, well informed, and respected as a neighbor. He died at the early age of 50 years. On the tombstone that marks his grave is found this inscription:

In memory of

HENRY PAWLING.

Who died August the 30th, 1739,

Aged 50 years.

He left no will, and Jacomyntje Pawling, his widow, and his sons Henry and Captain John Pawling administered to the estate which was appraised, both real and personal, at about £1000, Pennsylvania currency. The 500 acres of land were appraised at £500; in the inventory, besides a large amount of live stock, grain, and plantation outfit, is recorded a gun, sword and pistol, and a parcel of books, and eight slaves, scheduled as follows: A negro man named Jack, valued at £25; a negro woman named Bess, valued at £20; a negro girl named Cate, valued at £30; a negro boy named Oliver, valued at £37; a negro girl named Lane, valued at £28; a negro boy named Tom, valued at £20; and a negro girl named Bet, valued at £12.

After the death of Henry Pawling, senior, his plantation of 500 acres of land was purchased by Henry Pawling, junior, who, in the year 1769, was assessed in Providence township for 600 acres of land, 4 horses, 12 cattle, and 3 servants. The original Pawling plantation was in time divided among other members of the family of Henry Pawling, Sr.

Henry Pawling, Jr. (the second), married Eleanor ———. They had eight children: John, Henry, Benjamin, Nathan, Jesse, William, Rachel who married Colonel Edward Barthol-

omew of Revolutionary fame, and Catherine who married
 ——— Stalmford.

Henry Pawling (second), died November 18th, 1791. He left a will in which he requests "to be buried near my dear parents and my dear wife in Providence." He bequeaths to St. James' Church, in Providence township, "£ 10 for the purpose of walling in with stone the graveyard." To his daughters, Rachel and Catherine, he gave his plate. He remembers his brother Barney Pawling in his will. He gave to Colonel Henry Pawling, of the State of Kentucky, twenty pounds as a small token of his regard and friendship. The two or three hundred acres of land in Providence upon which stood the mansion house, in which the testator lived, passed by will into the possession of his son Henry Pawling. To his son John Pawling he gave 37 acres of land lying along the river Schuylkill, adjoining other lands owned by that son.

Henry Pawling (second), was prominent in public life, and a leading spirit in important matters of the neighborhood. He, we learned, succeeded his father as the owner and occupant of the old homestead. This Henry Pawling seems to have been a man of learning and ability; he was chosen to a number of positions of honor and trust, all of which he filled with distinction to himself, friends and the public whom he served. In February, 1748, he was chosen Captain of a Company of Associators of the Colony. In 1751 he was elected a member of Assembly from Philadelphia county, and in 1761 he was appointed one of the Commissioners for improving the navigation on the Schuylkill river. By act of Legislature, in the year of 1784, he was appointed one of the Commissioners for the laying out of the present county of Montgomery and locating the county seat and buildings. On January 20th, 1789, he was appointed Justice of Peace of Montgomery county, and as such was one of the Judges of the Court.

Prominent in public affairs and a leading spirit in important enterprises was also Henry Pawling (the third). He it was who succeeded his father in ownership and occupancy of the old homestead at Pawling ford. He, too, as his father, was a man of great prominence, and was associated largely

with early affairs of this county. He is buried at St. James' Episcopal Church, Evansburg. An appropriate stone marks his grave with the following inscription upon it:

Sacred
To the Memory of
HENRY PAWLING, Esq.,
Who departed this life
October 23d, 1822,
In the 76th year
of his age.

John Pawling, son of Henry Pawling (the second), owned land along the Schuylkill river. He also owned the Pawling ford, and in the Providence assesment for the year of 1776 he is recorded as owning 200 acres of land, one negro, 3 horses, 6 cows, and a ferry.

Of this John Pawling, Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg makes reference in his Journal in the following entries:

Wednesday, March 12th, 1777. Mr. John Pawling sent word that his married daughter had died and was to be buried in our churchyard to-morrow, and requesting my services.

Thursday, March 12th, 1777. To-day we have stormy winds and rain. In the afternoon at 4 o'clock the funeral procession arrived with the corpse. They could not ride the Schuylkill, but had to cross in canoes on account of high water. I preached a short sermon in Augustus Church.

THE BAKEWELL FAMILY.

Historically speaking the Bakewell family was well known in this locality in bygone days. The marriage of the daughter, Lucy Bakewell, to John James Audubon, the great naturalist, has given the family wide prominence. The Bakewells were of English extraction, of culture and wealth. Mr. Bakewell with his family came from New Haven, Connecticut, to Eastern Pennsylvania, and purchased the Fatland Ford farm of over 300 acres of land from James S. Ewing in 1803.

William Bakewell was a man of learning and great ability. He spent freely of his means in the improvement of his property at Fatland Ford, and to such an extent that it was consid-

ered the finest in this section of the country. The farm was beautifully situated, with a southern exposure, and sloped gently both to the Schuylkill river and the Perkiomen. From the soil's great fertility it derived the name, "Fatland."

From a description of this place in an advertisement by the owner in the Norristown "Herald," under date of August 7th, 1813, we form an idea of its character and improvements:

"The plantation of William Bakewell. 5 miles from Norristown, contains upwards of 200 acres of land, one third very good woodland; house 45 by 35 feet, stone, with piazza on each side, a two-story kitchen and wash house adjoining, a large stone barn with stables for 40 head of horses and cattle, two tenements, a threshing-mill which threshes 12 bushels of barley an hour, stone hay-house 56 feet long, a stone building for sheep 90 feet long, with two wings of 30 feet each, and an ice house. On the Schuylkill is a shad fishery. This farm for healthfulness and fertility is not exceeded by any other in Pennsylvania. The estate is situated near the junction of the Perkiomen with the Schuylkill. Is admirably calculated for keeping of sheep, having kept between 200 and 300 for 10 years without having lost any by dogs. If not sold before the 24th of September it will be sold at public vendue, together with 200 sheep of the English Morina breeds, one pair of oxen, and other cattle, 4 asses, 7 horses, a drilling machine, a large 3-furrow plow, 2 wagons, 2 carts, a large roller, about 30 pigs of the English Berkshire breed, etc."

William Bakewell seems to have been a man of rare culture, intelligence and ability. He possessed great learning, was refined in his manner and of pleasing address. He was considered a typical gentleman, and as such was looked upon and regarded by the community.

Thus writes John James Audubon, in his "Story of My Youth," of his early meeting with Mr. Bakewell at Millgrove: "I was in pursuit of game one frosty morning and I chanced to meet Mr. Bakewell in the woods. I was struck with the kind politeness of his manner, and found him to be an expert marksman. Entering into a conversation I admired the beauty of his well-trained dogs. . . . He was a most excellent man, a great shot, and possessed of extraordinary learning—aye, far beyond my comprehension." . . .

Mr. Bakewell was a near friend of Prof. Joseph Priestly, that eminent English doctor, scientist and philosopher, late of Northumberland, Pennsylvania. As a friend of Prof. Joseph Priestly he was engaged in similar study, and for the prosecution of his studies he possessed a laboratory of philosophical instruments, globes, chemicals, drugs, books, etc. These at the time of his death passed by will to his son, Thomas Woodhouse Bakewell.

Mr. William Bakewell was fond of outdoor sports. An intimacy and friendship grew between him and young Audubon as neighbors, and they frequently took long walks together and in companionship enjoyed these sports. Audubon, in addition, soon became a frequent visitor to the Bakewell home. Lucy, an accomplished and fascinating daughter, made it doubly interesting to the young ornithologist, for in due time affection grew strongly between them and they were married.

William Bakewell died at Fatland Ford on March 6th, 1821, and his remains were interred in the family burial plot on the farm near his mansion. He was survived by a widow, Rebecca Bakewell, and six children, namely, Thomas Woodhouse, William Gifford, Lucy married to John James Audubon, Eliza married to ——— Berthoud, Sarah, and Ann. At the time of Mr. Bakewell's death all of his children were living in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Bakewell, beside his real estate at Fatland Ford, owned property in Philadelphia; New Haven, Connecticut; and Northumberland and Allegheny, Pennsylvania. The Fatland farm at this time was purchased by William Wetherill, Jr., druggist, of Philadelphia, whose descendants still retain possession, and is known to-day as the "Wetherill Farm."

BURIAL PLACES—THE BAKEWELL PLOT.

A few rods south of this point, within the nearby woods, is found the Bakewell burial ground, a sacred and beautiful spot. This modest plot is enclosed with a substantial iron fence, erected on a granite coping, and the whole presents to the eye a pleasing, neat and impressive appearance. Conspicuously within the fence is seen a low, solid granite sar-

cophagus, erected to the memory of a distinguished member of the Wetherill family. In front of this grave are found other graves marked by stones with inscriptions of a more recent date, erected to the memory of the Bakewell and Palmer families.

This plot was first utilized for burial purposes during the ownership and occupancy of these lands by the Bakewell family, and the first person to be interred here was Lucy Bakewell, mother of Lucy (Bakewell) Audubon, the first wife of William Bakewell. The inscription on her tombstone is as follows:

LUCY BAKEWELL,

Died 30th of September, 1804, Aged 39.

A lovely form, a soul devoid of art,
With all of the kind affection of the heart.
A tender mother, and a faithful wife,
Industry's sacred path, she moved through life.
Though husband, children, friends implore her stay;
He who bestows, has right to take away.
In humble faith, this hope we keep in view,
The pow'r that form'd us will our lives renew.

By the side of this grave lies a tombstone flat on the ground with the following inscription:

To the memory of
WILLIAM BAKEWELL,
who died

March 6th, A. D. 1821,

Aged 62 years.

Other stones bear these inscriptions:

SARAH PALMER,

Died March 22d, 1810,

Aged 61 years.

to

the memory of a

Mother.

This stone erected by her
Children.

JOHN MACOMB WETHERILL,

Born February 11, 1828,

Died May 16, 1895.

Lieutenant Colonel 82d Pennsylvania Infantry

in the war for the Union.

Member of the Constitutional Convention of 1873.

YELLOW FEVER BURIAL GROUND.

This is located on the rising banks at the confluence of the Perkiomen creek with the Schuylkill river. The exact location of these graves is difficult to determine at this time. Here in 1793, it is said, during the great outbreak of yellow fever in Philadelphia, a number of bodies of those who perished from this disease were loaded on a batteau, brought over the Schuylkill to this point, and buried here. For many years, I am told, this last resting place was marked with a suitable wooden fence enclosing the plot into a square; time and high waters by decay and destruction have carried these entirely away.

GRAVES OF MINERS.

A few rods west of this point (Union Meeting House), located in a corner of a field now the property of Richard Caselberry, and formerly the property of the Perkiomen Lead Mining Company, are found three or four graves. Only one grave remains marked, and this one with a common red field stone, with no inscription upon it to show who is buried there. Prominent among those buried here, and probably the first, I am informed, was a person by the name of Roe, who was a miner by occupation. He was an Englishman by birth, and came to this place in the forties to work in the lead mines.

GRAVES OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

A few hundred rods north of the Audubon hotel there are interred in a field, the property of the late Joseph Culp, the remains of two Revolutionary soldiers. The supposition as to how and when they came to be buried there is that, after the departure of Washington and his army at Valley Forge, in 1778,

the troops passed over this point. These soldiers being too ill to proceed further in the ambulances were left to be cared for by the neighbors, possibly at the residence of Major Edwards. There they died, and were given a respectable burial at the hands of these good friends of the American cause.

OTHER GRAVES.

Some years back, while workmen were engaged in grading a low hill in the road about a hundred yards southeast of the Union Meeting House, the skeleton of a human being was unearthed. The bones were immediately reinterred in the adjoining field near the fence, and a mound of earth raised over them. Since this occurrence all traces of the mound have disappeared. To whom these remains belong is unknown—the probabilities are that they are those of an Indian who was interred at this point by his brethren during one of their encampments.

It is said that graves are found on other farms in this locality. These I am told were mostly of slaves of the earlier settlers. When these slaves died they were given a modest burial by their owners on the premises in some carefully selected nook suitable for such purpose.

MILLGROVE PLANTATION AND MILLS.

The brief of title is as follows: In 1699 these lands were deeded by William Penn, Esq., to Tobias Collett, and others; in 1722 Tobias Collett and others to Edward Farmer; in 1738 Edward Farmer to Morris Lewis; in 1749 Morris Lewis to James Morgan; in 1771 James Morgan to Rowland Evans; in 1776 Rowland Evans to John Penn, Esq. (Governor); in 1784 John Penn, Esq., to Samuel C. Morris; in 1786 Samuel C. Morris to Augustine Prevost; in 1789 Augustine Prevost to John Audubon.

This last conveyance brings us to the ownership of the Millgrove property by John Audubon, the father of John James Audubon, the ornithologist. In a recorded mortgage on this property, given by Augustine Prevost to Dr. Samuel Stryer, of Albany, New York, is found this recital: "All that

certain message, mills and farm called or known as "Millgrove."

At that time the Millgrove farm was divided by the Perkiomen creek into two tracts of land. The tract of land on the east side of this stream consisted of one hundred and nineteen acres of land, and was improved with "a message or tenement, two water-corn or grist mills under one roof with two pair of stone."

The second tract, which was on the west side of the stream, and contained seventy-one acres of land. This piece of time, it is said, was able to have a fine view of the mountains, and was known as the "Mountain View."

The first evidence of the existence of the farm or the mill-grove property is a deed, which is the counterpart of the property in Rowland Evans. It is a deed of the year 1762, and it is the first deed in the history of the property, which is the first deed in the history of the property, which is the first deed in the history of the property.

The second evidence of the existence of the farm or the mill-grove property is a deed, which is the counterpart of the property in Rowland Evans. It is a deed of the year 1762, and it is the first deed in the history of the property, which is the first deed in the history of the property.

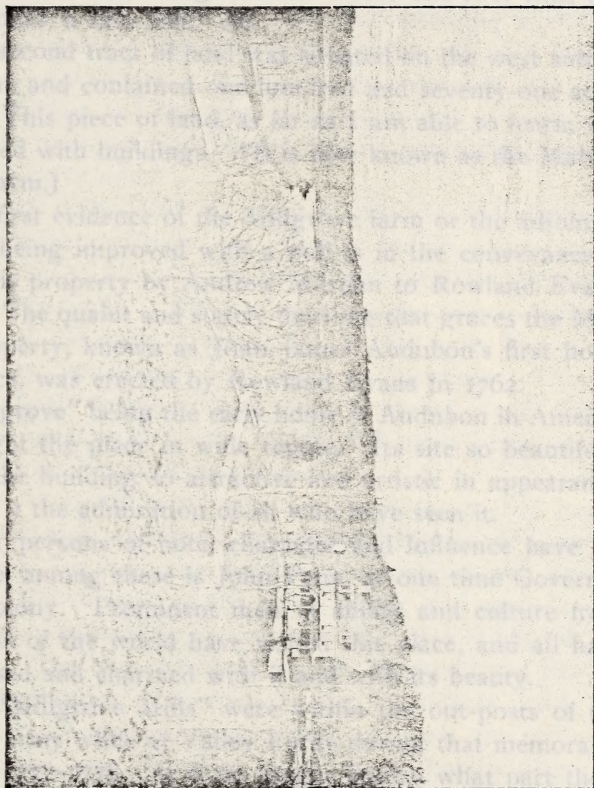
The third evidence of the existence of the farm or the mill-grove property is a deed, which is the counterpart of the property in Rowland Evans. It is a deed of the year 1762, and it is the first deed in the history of the property, which is the first deed in the history of the property.

The fourth evidence of the existence of the farm or the mill-grove property is a deed, which is the counterpart of the property in Rowland Evans. It is a deed of the year 1762, and it is the first deed in the history of the property, which is the first deed in the history of the property.

Rowland Evans, former owner of this property, we are led to believe resided at this place and conducted the mills at this time. He seems to have been an American for the Amer-

AUDUBON'S HOUSE, MILL GROVE FARM

FROM PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON



certain message, mills and farm called or known as 'Millgrove.'"

At that time the Millgrove farm was divided by the Perkiomen creek into two tracts of land. The tract of land on the east side of this stream consisted of one hundred and nineteen acres of land, and was improved with "a message or teneement, two water corn or grist mills under one roof with two pair of stones, a saw mill," etc.

The second tract of land was situated on the west side of the stream, and contained one hundred and seventy-one acres of land. This piece of land, as far as I am able to learn, was unimproved with buildings. (It is now known as the Mahlon Ambler farm.)

The first evidence of the Millgrove farm or the adjoining property being improved with a mill is in the conveyance of part of this property by Andrew Morgan to Rowland Evans, in 1761. The quaint and stately dwelling that graces the Millgrove property, known as John James Audubon's first home in America, was erected by Rowland Evans in 1762.

"Millgrove" being the early home of Audubon in America has brought the place in wide repute. Its site so beautifully situated, the building so attractive and artistic in appearance, has made it the admiration of all who have seen it.

Other persons of note, character and influence have resided here, among these is John Penn, at one time Governor of this Colony. Prominent men of ability and culture from other parts of the world have visited this place, and all have been pleased and charmed with it and with its beauty.

The "Millgrove Mills" were within the out-posts of the American army while at Valley Forge during that memorable winter of 1777-1778. It is no longer known what part these mills played in the drama of the Revolution at this period, but without doubt they were taxed to their utmost capacity both day and night in their efforts to relieve the want and distress from which our army suffered so much at this time.

Rowland Evans, former owner of this property, we are led to believe resided at this place and conducted the mills at this time. He seems to have been an American for the Amer-

ican cause since he was a member of Captain Arnold Francis' company of Providence township's militia. He was often absent from muster duty at this period of the struggle, but probably this was due to more important work at home, sawing lumber and preparing grain and flour for the American army.

Referring to this old mill Audubon thus writes: "The mill was a source of joy to me." And without a doubt it was the rippling of the water over the dam, the splashing of the waterwheel, the creaking and the buzzing of the mill, and the tearing noise of the saw as it wended its way through a log, breaking the stillness and quietness of this secluded spot, that awakened new thoughts and fancies in this wonderful man and stirred his active mind.

The old mill at this time, we presume, was but a primitive affair and in keeping with the new country and its surroundings. As it had but two pairs of mill-stones its daily output was but in proportion. The saw mill was an annex, built over the race at the back of the mill. In the early history of this locality lumbering was quite a business. This additional feature, together with the chopping done by the mill, gave much work to the miller, and made increased demands on the ancient undershot wheel.

After Mr. Wetherill purchased this property, in 1813 he improved the plant by enlarging and modernizing it. If I am rightly informed the mill was largely reconstructed and the dam rebuilt. The capacity of the mill's output was much increased, and the structure improved, but since then it has not been changed. The dam as rebuilt by Mr. Wetherill was one of the most permanent of its kind on the Perkiomen creek. Substantial piers or abutments were built of stone, the walls of the dam raised, and the water of the creek thereby deepened. This increased height of the dam gave more power to the wheel, and increased the force of the machinery it propelled.

A story of the kindness of Rachel, the wife of Samuel Wetherill, is told of her at this time. It is said that during the building operations at the mill and dam, about 1825, Mr. Wetherill had employed some fifty men for the work, and this

good lady made it a rule to serve to all of the men for breakfast a bountiful supply of buckwheat cakes baked by her own hands.

It is here the same old story. The "Millgrove Mill" has felt the imprint of time, and is now fast passing into decay. It has become obsolete, like many of its neighboring rivals; nothing but the four bleak walls of the structure now stand. From natural advantages, centrally located in a thickly settled and well-to-do agricultural community, the mill made its appearance almost with the advent of the white man. From early and great demands it soon developed into quite a prosperous industry, and became an important factor in the sustenance, comfort and development of the neighborhood. The road leading to the mill has to-day been virtually abandoned by the traveling public; the stream has here returned to its primitive condition, and has now become an attractive and favorite haunt for eager fishermen.

PERIOD OF THE REVOLUTION.

This community gave its portion of means and soldiers for the American cause during the Revolution. The muster rolls of Providence show, to a certain extent, its contribution to the rank and file.

This section of the country was occupied by both friend and foe, General Howe at one time having passed through here with his command of British troops. It is said of James Vaux, who at the time owned and occupied the Fatland Ford farm, that he had General Howe, the British commander, for breakfast, and General Washington, the American commander, for supper, on the same day.

When the American forces went into camp at Valley Forge, the country around here was greatly overrun by the troops. The country people were appealed to for supplies, and were taxed to their utmost to furnish them. The army proved to be so unruly while encamped here that guards were posted at many of these homes to prevent theft and depredations by the disorderly soldiers.

At night time the camp fires of the army could be distinctly

seen from the country around Audubon scattered over the hills, and the booming of the signal guns plainly heard. Some of the American officers were quartered in these nearby homes, and their entertainment was of the best the inhabitants could afford.

INDUSTRIES.

This immediate locality was not rich in industries in by-gone days as were some other neighborhoods of the inland settlements. Possibly the nearest mill of importance was the Iron Forge, at Valley Forge. This forge dates its beginning from the early part of the eighteenth century. Soon followed in its wake the corn or grist and saw mill at Millgrove, on the Perkiomen, which were also erected, it is presumed, early in the eighteenth century. A clover and chopping mill formerly stood on the banks of the little stream, about one-half mile south of this point. This mill was last conducted for business by its owner, Mr. George Highley. Part of the old foundation wall only now stands to remind you of its past existence. About a mile east of here, located at one time on the farm owned by the late Joseph Rhoads, was a pottery. Here in the early history of the country this industry was conducted, but at the present time no vestige of the old pottery—a square stone building—can be seen.

MINING.

Minerals of value have been discovered in this locality, particularly on the Millgrove and adjoining properties. Of this Audubon writes (about 1803): "A lead mine has been discovered by my tenant, William Thoms. . . . But I know nothing about mineralogy and mining."

The first effort to do successful mining here was made by Samuel Wetherill after he acquired this property from the Audubons, in 1813. Finally after disappointments the enterprise was abandoned. About 1850 a company was formed, machinery purchased, and mining operations were begun here on a large scale. Besides lead mining, copper mining was also conducted in a separate shaft, some distance further up

Mine creek. Neither of these mines proved, it is said, a financial success, and all efforts at mining were finally abandoned, and all that now remains visible of these operations are heaps of earth and the walls of demolished buildings.

A mile or so further up the Perkiomen, bordering on the Skippack creek, for a long time back, coal was known to exist, and several attempts in a small way have been made at mining it. It has, however, never been found in paying quantities, such as would warrant its successful operation.

VILLAGE OF AUDUBON.

This is not as old a place as some other villages of Providence township, yet it dates its beginning at the close of the Revolutionary struggle—about the beginning or formation of Montgomery county, in 1784. There were no buildings on the site of the present village in 1775—all date their existence subsequent to that period.

An old and much traveled road from Norristown to this village forked at this point, one branch leading to Pawling bridge, the other to Phoenixville, and in the past made this a much frequented place by the great travel over this thoroughfare. It was this which led to the opening of an inn here in the early history of the county.

This old inn at the present time has the appearance of being an ancient landmark, and it is to a certain extent, having had in its time a liberal share of business from the traveling public.

Older persons speak of it as "Jack's Tavern," possibly a name it derived during the proprietorship of one Andrew Jack, who conducted this stand in the early part of the last century. After the establishment of a post office at this place, in 1828, the name of the inn was changed to "Shannonville Hotel"—this name of Shannonville having been coined for the village from the name of a prominent family residing here and owning considerable property at the time. On October 7th, 1895, the name of the village post office and tavern was changed to that of "Audubon," a name more appropriate and more in keeping with its historical surroundings.

The first dwelling erected in this village was probably the hotel. Soon after this other residences and buildings followed, until the place has now grown in size to some dozen or more dwelling houses. The village store is here, and in addition there are several small-sized industrial establishments. With these are found the rural school-house and two places of worship, including the one we meet in to-day.

Audubon was at one time a thriving village, particularly at the time when the nearby lead and copper mines were in full operation. Then it supported two village stores, grew rapidly in population, and became a prosperous place.

This little village in its time was commonly known by the vulgar name of "Hogtown," and although not a very fanciful one, tradition says the name was in keeping and appropriate with the surroundings.

This inland village now, like many others of its kind, both from concentration of small trades into large industrial establishments, and because of its location apart from a steam railway or trolley, is retrograding in growth and development, instead of progressing, a natural condition of affairs that is unavoidable and much to be regretted.

JACK'S SCHOOL HOUSE.

I cannot say positively whether this is the house that "Jack" built, but if Jack did not build it, then I am led to believe that it was named after the above mentioned Andrew Jack, who was a prominent citizen of this locality in the early part of the last century, at about the time this school was organized and established. In the corner of the field, diagonally across the road from this meeting-house, is seen to-day what is left of this old building, which played in its time an important part in the educational advantages of this locality. A cellar partly filled-in by demolished walls is all that is left of this ancient landmark. The oldest residents say that this was an antiquated building when they attended school. This was always a one-story building, with walls of stone, and was originally square in shape. About 1830 an addition was built to it, making it longer than it was wide. This old school

house was abandoned for school purposes some twenty-five years ago, and since then it has rapidly fallen into decay.

HISTORY, TRADITION AND REMINISCENCES OF THE LOCALITY.

Since writing the foregoing, additional interesting data has come into my possession bearing on the subject, and I give it here in a supplementary paper. These facts to me are very interesting and will assist much in making my paper more complete. The subject matter was written by Robert Sutcliffe, an Englishman, who gives his opinion as an observer while making visits to the Bakewell plantation. These extracts are taken from his book, "Travels in some parts of North America, in the years of 1804-5-6," published in Philadelphia in 1812. The narrative was the result of his observations on a voyage to America taken solely with commercial views, and not with the expectation or the remotest thought of writing an account of it.

"The 8th and 9th, 1804, were spent in Philadelphia. The next day, accompanied by my brother, J. S. (Sutcliff) and T. W., I paid a visit to my relations at his estate above Norristown, being about twenty miles from Philadelphia. This plantation (Robert Bakewell's) consists of 300 acres of good land, 200 of which are cleared and 100 covered with wood. The woodland is the most valuable, being convenient for the Philadelphia carpenters, &c. On the estate is a well-furnished, square stone house, about fifteen yards in length, with a wide boarded floor piazza, both in back and front. These afforded excellent accommodation during the summer season, which continues much longer and in general is much warmer here than in England, as on these piazzas they frequently take tea and spend the evenings. Beside the dwelling house there is an excellent kitchen and office adjoining; with a large, well built stone barn and stable sufficient to accommodate forty horses and cows. The estate extends the whole breadth betwixt the Schuylkill and Perkiomen. On the former river there is a shad fishery which is of considerable value, and, if prosecuted with spirit, might supply many families with fish for the whole year. The house is so situated that it commands one of the finest prospects in Pennsylvania, and being on rising

ground is dry and healthy. The whole together forms one of the most beautiful spots I have seen in the United States. This estate, with all its appendages, cost about £3600 sterling, which is £12 per acre, the buildings included. There is also an excellent orchard of about ten acres planted with the choicest fruit trees, which are just in their prime.

This plantation was formerly in the possession of a Friend from London, of the name of Vaux, who built the house and made the improvements upon it. When he resided there with his family, during the American war, being in full view of the American encampment at Valley Forge, and on the opposite side of the river Schuylkill, he had frequently the company of General Howe and the other British commanders. One day it happened he had Howe for breakfast and Washington for tea; and being a Friend, who wished well to all men and made no distinction between the contending parties, he left his house open to all. This was the general practice of Friends during the war, particularly to those who stood true to the principles of their belief; and this proved to be the best policy; for though attended with some loss of provisions at the time, yet they were generally preserved, by their hospitable conduct, from any serious personal inconvenience.

8th-mo. 12th. This being the first day of the week our relation conducted us to Providence Meeting, a few miles distant from his home. After Meeting we were kindly invited to dinner by a Friend who was a stranger to us. We felt and acknowledged his kindness, but returned with our relation, in whose family we spent the remainder of the day. Notwithstanding this was the hottest season of the year we had a very liberal supply of ice upon the table, which I found my relation had the means of procuring without trouble or expense to himself. Amongst the buildings in his purchase was an ice-house, which every winter is replenished by his neighbors for the privilege of supplying themselves in the summer. I notice that the two female servants employed in the family had, both of them, been hired from on board of a vessel lying in the Delaware, and which had recently arrived from Amsterdam with several hundred Germans, men, women and children, of de-

scription of people called in America Redemptioners. These are people of low circumstances, who, being desirous of settling in America, and not having money to pay their passage, agree with the American captain of vessels to be taken over on condition of hiring for a term of years on their arrival in America to masters who are willing to advance ten or twelve guineas to be deducted out of their wages, and it not infrequently happens that they agree to serve two, three or four years for meat and clothes only on condition that their passage be paid. Yet, as wages in general are rather high in America, it will easily be supposed that an active and clever person, conversant in some business, will make much better terms on landing than the old and infirm, or than those who come over ignorant of any business.

The two female servants I have just mentioned were both widows, and one of them had two children with her in the family, who were quite young. This woman had lost her husband about the time of their arrival on the American coast; and the husband of the other being a seafaring man belonging to Holland had, as I understood, lost his life and property by an English ship of war. Although these two females had obtained a settlement in a country enjoying many privileges beyond that which they had left, yet, I think, no feeling mind could behold them thus circumstanced, placed amongst strangers of whose language they were almost wholly ignorant, and habituated to customs very different from those to which they had now to conform, without sensations of compassion, and it was very pleasant to me to observe that the general deportment of my relative toward them was respectful.

I noticed many families, particularly in Pennsylvania, of great respectability both in our Society and among others, who had themselves come over to this country as Redemptioners, or were the children of such. And it is remarkable that the German residents of this country have a character for greater industry and stability than those of any other nation.

In the plantation adjoining my relation's we visited a lead mine on the banks of the Perkiomen which was then worked by a Frenchman. He invited us to go down into it, where at

the depth of about twelve feet I saw a vein of lead ore eighteen inches in thickness, and as it is wrought at a very easy expense there was great probability of its being a very valuable acquisition. But these things, like many others of the world, have the stamp of great uncertainty upon them.

8th-month 13th. We returned this day to Philadelphia. On our way we stopped at Buck tavern, where we supped and breakfasted. After breakfast we crossed the Schuylkill, at Spring Mill Ferry, and had a sight of a vineyard of five acres under the management of a Frenchman. . . . I dined at E. L.'s. . . .

I remained at Philadelphia, or its vicinity, for some weeks after the Yearly Meeting, and the 13th of the 5th-month, 1805, was spent at my relative's W. B. (William Bakewell). Our time passed on very agreeably in traversing his plantation, or farm, on the banks of the Schuylkill and Perkiomen. The more I see of it the more I am convinced that it is one of the most healthful situations I have known, either in America or England. The ground rising till it becomes elevated high above the banks of the river, commands a prospect as delightful as can be conceived. A view of some of our noblemen's parks, on the more extensive scale, may give a faint idea of the prospect here seen; for even with such it is comparing small things with great ones, or putting art in competition with nature. As far as the eye can command one wide spreading forest is seen, interspersed with plantations or farms, and sheets of water, which have a little the appearance of lawns and fish ponds, such as are seen about the ancient seats of our nobility; but on a scale exceeding all comparison.

5th-month 14th to 16th. I continued at my relation's, and in one of our walks along the margin of the Schuylkill I observed a neat little cottage inhabited by a black family to which the former owner of the plantation had given their freedom with the cottage and a few acres of land. This little domain was managed with great economy, affording them a comfortable and independent livelihood. We picked up several land tortoises, a species of animal which abounds in these meadows. Here is also a great abundance of that kind of tor-

toise called the snapping turtle, which makes very good soup; and, as far as I am able to judge, nearly equal to that made from the sea turtle. The snapping turtle are voracious animals, destructive to young ducks or goslings, laying hold of them by the legs and dragging them under the water to devour them.

5th-month 17th. My relative kindly brought me to Philadelphia in his coach and remained with me at my lodgings until next day; after which I spent about a week in the company of my friends in Philadelphia. . . .

6th-month 8th, 1806. I attended the Valley Meeting, at which I noticed some of the Dunkers. They are a religious society who make a point of never taking off their beard. I observed a comely looking young man, whose beard had such a luxuriant growth that it spread considerably over his breast, and gave him a patriarchal appearance. At the close of the meeting several friends invited me to their homes, but being previously engaged I accompanied M. R. (M—— Roberts), and dined with him. . . . In the afternoon M. R. (Roberts) accompanied me to my cousin's W. B. (William Bakewell), and on our way we passed over the ground occupied by the American army under General Washington as an entrenched camp during the war. The remains of the entrenchments are still visible, although the site is again become a thick wood; so rapid is vegetation in this part of the world.

After fording the Schuylkill (at Fatland), which is here broad and shallow, having several islands in it covered with lofty trees, we came upon W. B.'s (Bakewell's) plantation, and soon after reached his habitation. We found the family sitting in the shade on the piazza in the front of the house, where we joined them in taking tea, and enjoyed the freshness of the breeze and a beautiful prospect of the great part of the country between his house and Philadelphia, a distance of about twenty miles; and in the pleasantest part of Pennsylvania. The privilege of sitting under the shade of these piazzas, enjoying the fresh air in the afternoons and evening, fully compensates for an inconvenience that is suffered from the heat in the warmest part of the day. These piazzas are commonly six

feet wide with boarded floors. On seeing families seated in them in the tranquil summer evening it constantly reminded me of the patriarchs of old sitting at the doors of their tents in the cool of the day.

6th-month 11th. Was pleasantly spent at the house of my relation; and it was gratifying that he was paying considerable attention to his flock of sheep, also that the labors were in a fair way of being crowned with success. Hitherto farmers in this part of the world have paid but little attention to their sheep, suffering the butchers to select the best formed for the market, leaving the most ordinary for stock. The natural consequence of such a plan was that the breed continued to degenerate. Against this mode of procedure my relation had the good sense to remonstrate, and to reserve for stock the best part of his flock. The beneficial effects of this plan are so manifest that I have no doubt the neighboring farmers will be induced to follow his example. I think I have before noticed how fond the cattle are of salt in these parts. At the front of the house is a beautiful lawn of many acres gently descending toward the Schuylkill, in which nearly 100 sheep were feeding; and so partial were they to salt that I have seen the girls go amongst them and entice the whole flock up to the house.

6th-month 12th. In coming down to Philadelphia I notice that the turnpike road crosses a fine vein of marble, which at a little distance is worked to a great advantage. . . . Adam and Susanna Wagner blessed with the birth of at least four children perished and disappeared from the land of the living. The names of Wagner and Heydrick suggest the religious connection of our subject and show that by parentage he belonged to the Schwenkfelders, and the place and date of his birth make it clear that he must have passed through the long period of trials and persecutions of the Schwenkfelders beginning with the Jesuit Mission, in 1718, when Christopher was but about seven years old, accelerated by the midnight flight of hundreds in 1720 and ended by the migration to Pennsylvania in 1734. The relative position of the family in the religious community is indicated by the fact that the father, Adam Wagner, served as secretary to these oppressed people when they

began to correspond with the Memphites and others in their quest for a place of refuge.

The diary in which a casual reference has been made, begins with the year 1718, when our subject was in his sixth

CHRISTOPHER WIEGNER, THE TOWAMENCIN DIARIST.

By H. W. Kriebel.

It will be the purpose of this sketch, brief, broken, and inadequate as it must be, to call attention to the life and in particular to the diary of an old-time resident of Towamencin township, Montgomery county, a young bachelor who lived on a 150-acre tract of land acquired by him in 1735 of Cadwalader Evans, only a short distance removed from the Towamencin Meeting House of the Schwenkfelders, a tract recently the property and home of George Anders and at present occupied by Allen K., son of Abraham K. Kriebel.

Christopher Wiegner, the subject of these remarks, was born in Harpersdorf, Silesia, Germany, about the year 1712, and died unmarried June 3, 1746, at his home in Towamencin. His widowed mother, a Miss Heydrick in her maiden days, followed him in death in 1752, and the last surviving member of the family, the unmarried sister Rosina, passed away in death in July, 1756, and thus the family tree of Adam and Susanna Wiegner blessed with the birth of at least four children perished and disappeared from the land of the living. The names of Wiegner and Heydrick suggest the religious connection of our subject and show that by parentage he belonged to the Schwenkfelders; and the place and date of his birth make it clear that he must have passed through the long period of trials and persecutions of the Schwenkfelders beginning with the Jesuit Mission, in 1718, when Christopher was but about seven years old, ameliorated by the midnight flight of hundreds in 1726 and ended by the migration to Pennsylvania in 1734. The relative position of the family in the religious community is indicated by the fact that the father, Adam Wiegner, served as secretary to these oppressed people when they

began to correspond with the Mennonites and others in their quest for a place of refuge.

The diary to which a casual reference has been made, begins with the year 1718, when our subject was in his sixth year, and ends with the year 1739, covering in the original MSS. 179 pages in German, and in the copy before the present writer 203 pages with about 150 words per page, thus containing about 30,000 words. Internal evidence seems to make it probable that the writing of the diary was not taken up actively and regularly until about October, 1732, although one-third of the material relates to his life prior to 1732, or before he was twenty years old. To give a desirable limit to our paper we shall as far as possible draw on said diary for our material, supplementing where necessary by drawing on other matter and sources.

Wiegner opens his diary with a reference to his first good thoughts ("ersten guten Gedanken") which came to him about the year 1718, when he was in his sixth year. This affords a clue to a leading element in the make up of his character, a deeply religious, introspective, almost melancholic temperament continually manifesting itself throughout his diary. That he was not always feeding his soul on good thoughts is shown by his remark that before he was ten years old he had learned such iniquity as a truly wicked person even of his age would not practice. One Sunday soon after, while, according to the custom general among the Schwenkfelders, the sermon was being read as part of their family devotional exercises, the remark was made that there was scarcely a family one of whose members would not enter into eternal punishment—a remark that threw him into such serious reflections that he had to seek retirement to hide his fast flowing tears.

It was about this time when he had scarcely entered his teens that he made a vow to God that if there still was hope of salvation for him he would abandon all the earthly possessions he had or ever would have, leave his home and spend his life as a mendicant if thereby Heaven might finally be his. An earnest soul surely, we think, but when he asked his mother soon after how to pray and lead a holy life she made the Christian

life so serious and gave him such telling counsels that he took offence and was sorry that he had even asked for advice—she having volunteered to give him much more than he had expected, particularly on filial duties.

When the persecutions under the Jesuit Mission broke out and the attempt was made to make Catholics out of Schwenkfelders by fines, imprisonments, extortions of all kinds, and resort even to the use of arms, young Christopher often recalled and renewed his vow of mendicancy just referred to, to the effect that rather than apostatize and become Catholic ("ein abgöttischer Catholike") he would leave all, even if father, mother and all were to remain behind. This young hero must have felt pained and offended when he saw that his friends expressed surprise at his zeal and looked upon it as a want of judgment on his part. February 21, 1726, his father, mother and the four children fled by night across the Silesian borders to Görlitz, as many others had done, leaving all their earthly possessions behind, taking naught with them but sorrow and poverty, as the father expressed it. The faith of young Christopher was thus early put to the test with the rest and was found steadfast to the renunciation of home, friends and all. The writer must here resist the temptation to dwell on this period of persecution, on the distressing letters that Christopher's father wrote, on the sacrifice made in abandoning home, friends, fatherland, and all on account of a religious conviction.

From February, 1726, to May, 1734, this family, with some additional Schwenkfelder families, made their home in Görlitz. A daughter was buried May 8, 1730, and the father died July 29, 1731. During this whole period our subject was intensely religious and spent considerable parts of his time in Bible study, holding meetings and directing others in their study. On account of having been befriended so signally by Zinzendorf, all the Schwenkfelders in exile were drawn into a close friendship with the Moravians, whose chief representative at this time was Zinzendorf. Christopher thus came to know intimately, Zinzendorf, Spangenberg, Christian David, Scommel, Bönisch, Baus, Nitschman, Zeisberger, M. Schaef-fer and others—names quite familiar to all students of the his-

tory of the Moravian Church. Without giving any reasons why, Wiegner relates that a new temptation befell him March 28, 1729, when soldiers came, made him a prisoner, and kept him in confinement until September 29, 1729. The following year he had to go into hiding from January 13 to April 8. During this period he was alone practically all the time, day and night, and found deep delight in undisturbed communion with his Saviour, which greatly sweetened his life, although his body was in such miserable condition that he did not expect to live eight weeks longer.

January 28, 1733, soldiers seized him again, happily to be released after a few hours. July 20 of the same year we see him go into hiding again. September 7 following he was advised to leave Görlitz, which advice he followed, so that by September 24, 1733, we find him at Ebersdorf in the company of Zinzendorf, where he stayed until the following March. During this period he was particularly active in religious work, and several times almost had collisions with the pastors of the community. By March 16, 1734, we find that he had returned to Görlitz. He was quite busy until the latter part of May, when he started out for Pennsylvania, the main body of Schwenkfelders having pulled their tent-stakes in April, and his mother and remaining sister having started a week previous, May 19.

As an example of earnest devotion we may note the entry in the diary made December 24, 1727, where he records the interesting fact that he and others held a meeting for prayer, song service, reading and general edification, which continued until four o'clock in the morning. At Ebersdorf he conducted Bible study which was carried on or rather begun at the same unearthly hour, four o'clock in the morning. Nothing slow or lazy about our worthy diarist. That he had a peculiar soporific power in prayer is shown by his note of September 19, 1732, where he relates that at a certain meeting while he was praying, his friend Scommel fell asleep, began to snore lustily and did not get awake until the close of the meeting. Christopher spoke reprovingly and earnestly about the matter to his friend, presumably a natural sleepyhead, who became huffy, passed

the lie, turned his back on his reprover and allowed the love between them to grow cold. The estrangement was removed, however, again in a few weeks. A few casual references seem to indicate that our diarist was a shoemaker and this may account for the gatherings at unseasonable hours. Seemingly he was a kind of Paul whose major work was to proclaim his Master, whose minor work to toil with the hand to win an honest living. But we must not linger on the details of this period. Suffice it to say that the notes made by Wiegner during this period furnish valuable corroborative evidence to the students of Moravian history.

In *Memorials of the Moravian Church*, Vol. I, page 157, the statement is made that "George Bönisch, Christopher Baus, and Christopher Wiegner arrived at Philadelphia on the 'St. Andrew,' Captain Stedman, September 22, 1734. The vessel brought the Schwenkfelders, whom Zinzendorf had received at Berthelsdorf, on their banishment from Silesia. Bönisch accompanied them to Pennsylvania at their request, and during their stay resided at Wiegner's." These are the three to whom Cranz refers in his history in these words: "Three brothers were sent with them (the Schwenkfelders) who at the request of them were to aid in caring for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the Schwenkfelders." Recognition of such a commission and request in the writings of the Schwenkfelders has not been brought to light. Wiegner in his diary, however, makes reference to his coming to Pennsylvania, and we may linger a moment on these in view of their historic significance.

An entry of December 29, 1733, shows that Zinzendorf sent word to Wiegner that he was to hold himself in readiness to serve as a commissioner. Subsequent events make it seem probable that this proposed commission referred to the contemplated accompanying of the Schwenkfelders by him. It should perhaps be noted that these people had received notice in April, 1733, that in a year's time migration would have to take place. To be entrusted by Zinzendorf with such a charge at the age of twenty-one was no small honor. March 28 Wiegner had a lengthy discussion with Spangenberg, who expressed himself quite freely, saying that if he were in his place

and saw any chance of accomplishing results, he should regard it a sufficient reason for going with such a body of people. Between the 18th and 26th of April the Schwenkfelders at Berthelsdorf all left for Pennsylvania, i. e., all who did go left during those days. Four days later Wiegner and Spangenberg held another consultation, when the latter asked whether Wiegner would be willing to have him as a traveling companion. May 12 they met again and agreed on plans for their journey to the sea. May 13, Christopher (Baus?) said he had it in mind to go with Wiegner to Pennsylvania—consent to which was given three days later. May 24 it seems it was still an open question whether Spangenberg could go with Wiegner; the question was decided, however, the following day, it being agreed that he should follow fourteen days later. Wiegner, Baus and Bönisch agreed the same day to travel together, and on the following day, May 26, started on their journey to overtake the Schwenkfelders.

These few scattered references seem to suggest at least that as temporal guides these three can not have had very definite plans or duties. Collateral evidence shows that Spangenberg did not follow as proposed, but stayed behind and became the overseer of other emigrants later who went to Georgia and the Carolinas. It may be in place also to remark at this point that Zinzendorf was anxious to convert the Schwenkfelders, and that this furnished the motive probably why commissioners were sent.

The notes must be passed over in silence which cover the journey from Herrnhut, May 26, to Rotterdam, June 25, where passage was taken on the "St. Andrew" three days later with the Schwenkfelders as well as the voyage across the Atlantic, lasting from June 28 to September 22, when the company landed at Philadelphia. The notes constitute a third Schwenkfelder account of the life on an Atlantic sailing vessel, descriptive of the experiences of the early immigrants to our good old Keystone State.

Following Wiegner's notes we learn that his mother and sister moved out to Germantown on the third of October, where they made their home with Schönfeld until the family

acquired land of their own. The main object of the whole company, of course, was to find land and found homes for themselves as soon as possible. The Schwenkfelders had planned and labored hard—Christopher himself traveling hundreds of miles—to secure a large tract of contiguous land in order that they might live close together, but nowhere could they find a suitable place. They tried to buy the Casper Wistar tract of over 1000 acres in the present Lower Salford, but found that it would not suit because it was already occupied in part. They made an offer of 1000 pistóles for 2000 acres of the Perkasio Manor, lying north of the present Chalfont, in Bucks county, an offer which Logan said was the best he had known to be made since he knew the province. Thomas Penn proposed to sell them 2500 acres of the said manor land, but for some reason no sale was made. Christopher relates that when he and others went to view the said land the residents would not show the boundary lines and conducted them a whole day over poor land. On inquiry, Wiegner learned that this was done because the people did not wish them to settle there. They also tried to buy 2000 acres in Falckner Schwamm. Large unexplored and unsettled tracts were indeed available, but they chose to make their homes in the inhabited sections and thus—unwittingly—avoided the extreme hardships of the frontier settlers and the barbaric cruelty of the revengeful Indian. Being prevented from establishing a distinct Schwenkfelder community, they concluded to buy wherever conditions seemed most favorable. According to Christopher, our diarist, they reached this decision March 21, 1735. After further investigation Wiegner, May 31, bought his plantation of 150 acres referred to in the beginning of this paper. June 3 he bought a horse; June 5 he went out to see his place, followed the next day by his mother and sister. By August 4 he was ready to make a beginning on the cellar of his future house and home.

We can probably best serve the purpose of this sketch by arranging and summarizing under the following four heads the more interesting material, covering the period from August, 1735, to April, 1739, when the notes break off abruptly:

- I. Wiegner's home life.
- II. Wiegner's acquaintances.
- III. Data about the Schwenkfelders.
- IV. Data about the Moravians.

Perusing the notes we see our diarist pow-wowing for colic and resorting to cupping or to blood-letting under the hands of his friend, Spangenberg. One spring he feels quite sick and unable to be out of bed, but one morning he feels a healing power in his body and soul and is led to believe that he can go out and plow, and out he goes and plows. A few days later he has severe pains, but by grace divine he gets up and is able to plow and labor the whole week. Shall we call our diarist a faith-curist?

We see Christopher go forth to plow in the morning when he finds that "Eyseck" has stolen his ax, but by evening he can rejoice that "Eyseck" has been caught and brought before a justice. We see him on a rainy day go out on the hay mow, stretch out at length and discuss religious themes with his friend, George Bönisch.

We see him make trips to Germantown, Philadelphia, Falckner Swamp, Methacton, Goshenhoppen, Macungie, Oley or Conestoga; he even felt a very strong impulse to make a trip to Germany, and even though he could not go, he did not fail to keep up a frequent correspondence with his friends at home, or with Spangenberg when he was away from his home in Towamencin.

We see him toil on the fields, building larger barns, going even to Falckner Swamp to cut lasts. We do not read that the wandering cobbler came around his way for seemingly he was himself a shoemaker, but the peripatetic tailors came to alter their clothing and of course were permitted to stay.

We see him go to the Schwenkfelder services on Sunday morning to be called back on account of the swarming of his bees. We see him leave home while a sneak thief watches his departing steps, and who, by false pretext, persuades his sister to leave the house while he enters and steals everything. Now he saddles his horse for Brother Spangenberg, who starts for Falckner Swamp, but has to return on account of the high

water, probably in the Perkiomen, the cranberry creek. One day we see him go to Justice Farmer, of Whitemarsh, to whom he lends some money. We can see him start at sunset on foot to walk to Germantown that evening to serve as witness in the city the next day, accompanied by his friend, Spangenberg, with whom he holds sweet communion until midnight on the way. We see the two Christophers, Wiegner and Baus, starting on foot for Germantown, Wiegner's dog sneaking after them. The diarist sees the dog, and administers condign punishment. Baus gets mad about the matter and a dispute arises. Three days later good brethren try to reconcile the erring and estranged brothers, when our diarist also becomes huffy. Happily the little squall soon died out again. One day Bönisch says, to-morrow is a holiday, but I am going to plow. Wiegner says No to the project. The good brothers had a little spat that was soon healed again, for our diarist says they shook hands and kissed each other soon after.

A woman to whom a revelation has been given calls and wants him to write out what she saw. We see him wend his way across the fields to his wealthy neighbor, Peter Wentz, owner of 1000 acres of land, to effect a reconciliation between him and his hired girl, but they are both too headstrong, so that when soon after the girl comes accompanied by a friend seeking his services again he positively declines. Soon after he feels called upon to effect a peace between Bönisch and Baus, both in his own family, who have had a fall out about domestic affairs, and finds himself not strong enough to accomplish his object.

We have remarked before that he was of a strong religious nature; this is shown by his hurrying to the bedside of his very sick friend Baus to bring comfort and encouragement. He showed a deep tenderness and earnestness of soul by the tears he shed as he parted from him. Even out in the fields we see him discussing religious matters with his friends, and kneeling in prayer with them. We may see him even with one eye watching the horses grazing in some grassy nook while he and Spangenberg are discussing the most profound themes of revealed religion. Resort was had to the casting of lots, in

Biblical fashion, to decide various matters that came up before him. That he showed a becoming deference to the members of the family is shown by the fact that when certain matters were under consideration that seemingly involved important steps he said he would do nothing if his sister Rosina was opposed.

He dreamt dreams and saw visions. Once he dreamt that he went to bed in the house of good friends when Satan created a great tumult in the bed. The diarist tore up the bed. Satan transformed himself into a tobacco pipe, which the diarist after a struggle wrested and managed to get under control, when he dashed it on the floor, broke and crushed it under foot. We may wish for ourselves what he wished when he awoke, that his heart might have such a victory. He also refers to a dream that his friend, Christopher Baus, had, and then says: "See the diary of the brethren." This tantalizing note is pretty direct evidence that the brotherhood centering in the Wiegner home were keeping a diary. What a rich treat was lost when this special diary disappeared who can tell?

The trials and struggles of our good friend, the diarist, must at times have been painful. He speaks of the terrible temptations that had to be met during this period. A spirit of opposition and impatience befell him, calling out indescribable temptations, sufficient to dry up the very marrow of his bones. At the same time the spirit prevalent among the Conestoga brotherhood, the Seventh-day Baptists, under Beissel, augmented by his inner experience, so distressed his soul that his heart trembled and he cried unto God to relieve him from his soul-anguish. God answered and relief came.

Taking a glance at the domestic arrangements we find that he early had a serious discussion with his mother and sister respecting the plantation and the marriage of his sister. Later again a discussion was held and arrangements entered into respecting the duties of each one in the affairs of the household. This probably referred to more than the three of the Wiegner family. Soon they were discussing household affairs again. Farther on we find that the mother felt the burdens of the household cares, but still she showed herself re-

conciled to her lot after the son had spoken to her. There is good reason for believing that the mother's position was a very trying one.

The busy matron in those primitive days did not have all the multitudinous appliances to ameliorate the cares of the modern housewife. It is possible also that our diarist did not always show the most pleasant temper in the family. He makes us suspect this when he writes: "Br. Spangenberg redete mich hart an, fragte mich ob ich meine spitziige Redensart lassen wolte oder nicht"—or, freely translated, Brother Spangenberg reproved me sharply and asked me whether or not I would give up my pungent style of speech. But these are probably quite insignificant considerations in view of the company coming and going that had to be entertained for longer or shorter periods. We may profitably consider for a minute a few of Wiegner's acquaintances and thus incidentally note some of the callers that enjoyed the hospitality of the Wiegner home.

A Schönfeld was a frequent visitor. He was probably the party with whom the Wiegners lived in Germantown before removing to Towamencin.

Gruber, Dewald, both the Macks Gmelen,, came and went.

Occasionally a Quaker minister would drop in on them, staying, at least once, eleven days. Another time Spangenberg is reported to have brought a Quaker minister with him. One day a Mr. Schlinghoff called; whether he was an ancestor of the Slingluffs of our day I am not able to say. Indians even came with their wives to be entertained and to make inquiry for Spangenberg.

George Weiss, the ministers of the Schwenkfelders, and other leading members of the same faith of course were frequent visitors. Wiegner's faith was much broader, however, than the faith of the little body of his fellow-immigrants. He, for instance, makes the interesting note that in Germantown he attended a meeting at the home of his friend, John Eckstein, where religious matters were discussed in the presence of adherents of the following faiths: Lutheran, Reformed, Quaker.

Baptist, Schwenkfelder, Episcopalian, Separatist, Pietist—such a gathering seems to foreshadow the religious conferences held in 1742 under the leadership of Zinzendorf.

Time scarcely permits more than a mere reference to the visits by representatives of the Ephrata Kloister, coming and going from the banks of the Cocalico, near Ephrata, in Lancaster county. April 22, 1737, he notes the fact that two "Siebentaeger" called and stayed. The next reference to this brotherhood is found the following October when he writes as follows: "When I came home I found two 'Siebentaeger' at the house. They were Peter Miller and the younger Heckerlein. We had a warm discussion. They maintained the following: there is always a church of Christ on earth, that they are the said church that the humanity of Christ was to be found with them alone, that Christ had given it to them. They claimed they were the church to whom the new covenant was entrusted and asked us to come and see whether we could not in truth find God in their midst." Wiegner does not say how long the brothers remained, but the following November he made this entry: Another "Siebentaeger" was here. The impression made by these visitors must have been rather deep, for in a few days we read that Wiegner and Spangenberg discussed the advisability of writing to the brotherhood direct to ask whether they endorsed what the two visitors had proclaimed. Whether the letter was written I am unable to say. The following July five members of the same brotherhood called. These insisted very strongly on their own theories and totally rejected the life and work at the Wiegner home. To our diarist they said that his life did not harmonize at all with the teaching of Jesus, that he would first have to sell all, give to the poor and come to them at Ephrata to be baptized, maintaining even that no one could be saved who did not obtain his faith through them. It seems natural to read that the two schools got farther apart as a consequence of such affirmations. Unfortunately these were not the only good people in the world who thought they could place in the hollow of their hands God's power to save the world, or grasp with their limited outlook the mystery of salvation.

In the early part of 1739 a party left Wiegner's on a visiting tour lasting two weeks. On this trip the brethren in "Canestock" were called upon, causing our diarist to make this entry: "Wir kamen aus einander," or as much as to say we had a fallout. It was a few months after this visit that Wiegner had his sick spell and soul-anguish, partly on account of the views of these brethren to which reference has been made.

To supplement along this line we will quote from Vol. I of *Memorials of the Moravian Church* as follows: "The Wiegner home was interesting as having been the home of the first Moravians in Pennsylvania, and also as the headquarters of The Associated Brethren of the Skippack, who met there for the worship of God and for religious edification. Among these worthies were Henry Frey, John Kooker, George Merkel, Christian Weber, John Bonn, Jacob Bonn, Jacob Wenzel, Jost Schmidt, William Bossen and Jost Becker, of Skippack; Henry Antes, William Frey, George Stiefel, Henry Holstein and Andrew Frey, of Frederick township; Matthias Gmelen and Abraham Wagner, of Matetsche; John Bertolet, Francis Ritter and William Potts, of Oley; John Bechtel, John Adam Gruber, Blasius Mackinet and George Benzel, of Germantown."

As another item of interest it may be noted also in this connection that May 5, according to our diarist, Nitschman came to his home, that May 7 three "Siebentaeger" came and that May 8 Spangenberg and Nitschman went to "Cainstock," as Wiegner puts it. Turning to Dr. Hark's "Translation of the Chronicon Ephratense" we find the following interesting note: "In the year 1739 two delegates of their denomination (the Moravians) namely, Spangenberg and Nitschman, arrived in Pennsylvania, who met with great success, and might have proved of great edification to many had they had more experience, and not been novices themselves. After the Brethren had heard of them, three went down the country and visited them at Wiegner's, a venerable family, descendants of the Schwenkfelders; and because at that time the fire of first love was still burning, their spirits united into one, so that they re-

turned with them. When telling of their institutions at Herrnhut, the Brethren became so perceptibly moved by it that little was wanting and some would have accompanied them thither. Having tarried a few days in the Settlement, and also been present at a love-feast, they were dismissed with the kiss of peace, as became the messengers of such a renowned people." (145.)

But we must not linger longer with our interesting monastic brotherhood on the Cocalico and hasten to pick up a few of the data furnished by our diarist relating to the Moravians, without attempting to furnish the historic connections. We have already noted the strong friendship between Spangenberg and Wiegner and the commission given to Spangenberg to accompany a band of immigrants to the Carolinas and Georgia. After he had performed this mission he started north to take up his work in Pennsylvania. Wiegner says in his notes of March 25, 1736, I had a great longing for Spangenberg, and on this account said to the brethren that it was time for him to come. April 3 he was engaged in plowing and came home in the evening tired, and yet he said if he knew that Spangenberg was in the city he would go that very night to meet him twenty miles away. The next day at dinner he had such a yearning that he said to Bönisch he must come, and while they were talking in stepped Spangenberg to their agreeable surprise. Two days later the two started off together to visit the brethren in Germantown. A month later Nitschman arrived to stay three weeks, during which time the trip to Ephrata was made before referred to.

June 20 of the same year we see Wiegner, Spangenberg and Bönisch going across the fields to attend divine services at Melchior Kriebel's. Spangenberg addresses the meeting and Bönisch offers prayer. Offence must have been given for during the coming week, the Schwenkfelder minister came and told Wiegner and his colaborers that they were a disturbance in the Schwenkfelder services and should leave them alone, it being better for each party to go its own way. Weiss told them plainly that it would be useless to try to make Moravians out of the Schwenkfelders. The diarist himself seems to have

been spoken against the most strongly. Wiegner was not trusted by Weiss, although Spangenberg was received very kindly by him.

July 10 Spangenberg started for St. Thomas to return November 27. April 9, 1737, George Neisser came to the home of Wiegner. He had been sent by the brethren in Georgia to report their distress to Spangenberg and urge him to go to London to lay their grievances before the "Trustees for the Colony of Georgia." He had probably called before this as the question of Spangenberg's going had been discussed a month earlier. The Schwenkfelders seem to have advised him to make the trip to Georgia. Spangenberg accordingly goes to Germantown, where his friends strongly oppose his leaving. Wiegner reports that Spangenberg and Eckstein sailed for Georgia May 11, and that Spangenberg returned to his house September 7, 1737. A few weeks later Gruber and Eckstein called and brought the news that the latter had written a very hard letter against the Moravians, to which, however, the company seemingly could not agree.

December 5, 1737, Wiegner and Spangenberg made a trip to Philadelphia. On the way they seem to have had quite a warm discussion. Spangenberg wished to introduce special regulations respecting clothing, eating, and sleeping, according to Wiegner. Spangenberg finally promised to let the matter rest, upon which they loved each other and rejoiced together. The latter part of the following January they together visited the single brethren in Germantown, but they could not extend the brotherly hand according to Paul. A casual reference shows also that the brethren on the Skippack were considering the feasibility of establishing an orphanage.

To supplement these incohesive references to Spangenberg we may be permitted to quote a few words from the Moravian historian, Reichel. He says: "Here (at Wiegner's) he remained for a considerable time and from occasional remarks in his letters to the Brethren in Germany, as well as from other sources, it is evident that the learned Professor of Theology took many practical lessons in ploughing, threshing and other agricultural labors, by which he became well qualified for fu-

ture usefulness in the economies of Bethlehem and Nazareth. When Peter Böhler came to Pennsylvania, in 1740, he found that Spangenberg was well known everywhere and often heard it said 'that he had come to Pennsylvania a very wise man; but had returned from the high-school much wiser.'"

This exhibit will not be quite adequate without some reference to the Schwenkfelders. As a background to the few selected references in the diary it is in place to say succinctly, that Zinzendorf termed himself the appointee of Jesus as reformer of the Schwenkfelder religion, that Wiegner was a liberal-hearted Schwenkfelder who was not always subservient to the prevailing sentiment of the Schwenkfelder community, that Baus, Bönisch, Neisser, Spangenberg found at least one purpose in their coming to Pennsylvania in the assigned duty to try to convert the Schwenkfelders to the Moravian faith, and that George Weiss, the pastor among the Schwenkfelders, knew of the designs of Zinzendorf and his deputies.

In October, 1735, Wiegner and Bönisch made a trip to Goshenhoppen, the home of quite a number of Schwenkfelders. In the evening Wiegner and George Weiss, the minister among the Schwenkfelders, had a long and warm discussion, but could not agree. A few weeks later Weiss addressed a letter to the Schwenkfelders and called upon them to elect a minister and deacons. November 9, 1735, an election was therefore held by nine Schwenkfelders, of whom Wiegner was one, with the result that Weiss was chosen as Vorsteher, or minister, and Balzer Hoffman and David Seipt were chosen as eltesten, or deacons.

January 1, 1736, Bönisch attended services and was permitted to address the meeting, a matter sufficiently out of the usual course of events to make it worthy of record. A few days later Wiegner wrote a letter to Weiss, seemingly sufficiently important to bring Weiss to his house about a week later. The letter was discussed and Weiss spoke quite firmly to Wiegner, moderating, however, so as to give Wiegner the privilege to attend services. Before parting Weiss begged him to come, and Wiegner gave his consent. For some time

the Wiegner people seem to have attended the Schwenkfelder services quite regularly. Weiss called upon them in July, and showed himself very agreeable. He and Spangenberg in particular seemed to understand each other quite well. Wiegner was also accorded the right to speak and ask questions in meeting—Wiegner was continually getting into hot water. Thus we find that in February, 1737, Weiss called upon him and wanted to know what he had said against Weiss and his methods. He replied to Weiss in an humble and contrite spirit with the result that they became reconciled again. Weiss expressed himself strongly against the formation of a church it seems. Within a month Weiss called on Wiegner again, and they seemed to have had a blessed time. Wiegner was moved to jot down the thought that God's grace was really beginning to manifest itself among the Schwenkfelders. A few months later he makes the remark that Weiss gave a very powerful address, the like of which he had never heard from him. That matters did not appear very encouraging to Wiegner is shown, however, by his expressed longing that day might soon break forth among the Schwenkfelders. About the same time he records the observation that George Neisser who had been living with him but a few months could not reconcile himself to their dealings with the Schwenkfelders.

July 28 there was to be a general meeting of the Schwenkfelders in Skippack, probably now Lower Salford. Weiss had become sick in Goshenhoppen, so that he could not attend. Hoffman, his assistant, took his place and spoke quite freely. He strongly opposed the formation of a sect or separate organization among the Schwenkfelders.

January 19, 1738, Wiegner made the following entry in his diary: "Attended services at Kriebel's. George Weiss said the Bible was a sealed book and was only for the saints ('Heilig-recommandirte')—hence his 1500 hymns and other literature. This affected me so much that I made a loud exclamation, and Brother Spangenberg did the same, which stirred up considerable uproar. George Weiss wrote a letter to which we replied again." This stormy meeting meant much. An extensive correspondence followed. The following April

Wiegner wrote: "George Weiss rejects us," and Spangenberg wrote: "The Schwenkfelders form themselves wholly into a sect and completely close themselves against all others who do not approve of their cause, whereby consciences are bound and the spirit of Christ is quenched. We do not say much, but have expressed ourselves orally and in writing." Reichel says: "In 1738, when visiting the Schwenkfelders for the third time, he (Spangenberg) complained of their exclusive sectarian spirit by which the consciences are burdened; but it is still more likely that Spangenberg's 'too learned to be an apostle,' and lacking experience did not always meet them and especially their minister, George Weiss, with that Christian candor and liberality which alone awakens confidence, and which in later years was the brightest ornament in Spangenberg's career."

But I must not linger longer in this interesting field lest the suspicion be aroused that I may have picked up sod, briars, thorns, roots and all instead of plucking a few bouquets here and there to show you. In passing I wish, however, to call attention to a kind of stone of stumbling found all through this interesting MS.—a kind of strange and tantalizing hieroglyphics, seemingly not Greek, though Greek in appearance, and Greek altogether to the writer. Our diarist has the habit of jotting down his thoughts in German, leading you along with his words up to some enchanting view and then disappearing and smashing your mental imagery behind a line of curious and oddly-shaped characters.

By way of further digression it would be interesting, would time permit, to take glimpses of the life at the Wiegner Economy, after the diary fails to speak to us, to study prominent lives in the Moravian annals, as Antes, Zinzendorf, Whitefield, Zeisberger, Eschenbach, Ann Nitschman, observing them as they come and go at the home of the Associated Brethren of the Skippack.

By way of conclusion it may be permissible to suggest that though the actual printing of such MSS. by our Society does not seem feasible, the careful preparation of typewritten

copies, fully indexed, ought to lie within the line of easy attainment. The addition of such sources of original material would greatly increase the value of our library.

"Let not ambition mock their useful toil
Their homely joys and destiny obscure.
Nor grandeur hear with disdainful smile,
The short and simple annals of the poor."

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, May 25, 1904.]

Revolutionary cannon in Norristown, I take pleasure in furnishing the following information:

The Revolutionary cannon, about which inquiry is made, was found nearly sixty years ago by a boy, a playmate of mine, and about the same age as myself, the name of Joseph Jagers, who lived on Washington street, just below Franklin street. The spot where it was discovered was on the banks of Saw Mill run, just below where the gas works are now situated, midway between the Germantown and Norristown Railroad and the Schuylkill river, but if anything somewhat nearer the railroad. A small frame house, occupied by an aged colored couple whose names I do not now remember, stood close by on the bank where the gun was found. Jagers was playing along the stream that day, and thought that he had found an old iron pot, but on further investigation it was discovered to be a cannon. The news soon spread through the town, and a crowd was there in a very short time, I among the number, having run all the way from my home, which was at the corner of Penn and Cherry streets, and covered the ground in about fifteen minutes. I can locate the place at any time. Of course the finding of the old relic was the talk of the town, and the next day a large crowd of people, old and young, assembled on the ground to talk over the great find. Among them I remember Major Holstein, who was then ticket agent of the Germantown and Norristown Railroad, and who lived close by; Ben Plumb, who was a conductor on that road; Capt. Thomas Potts, who commanded the old Montgomery Guards, a military company of the town; Benedict Potts, Francis Diamond, John B. Sterigere. I often think

THE FINDING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CANNON.

By Gen. William J. Bolton.

In reply to an inquiry made about the finding of a Revolutionary cannon in Norristown, I take pleasure in furnishing the following information.

The Revolutionary cannon, about which inquiry is made, was found nearly sixty years ago by a boy, a playmate of mine, and about the same age as myself, by the name of Joseph Jaggers, who lived on Washington street, just below Franklin street. The spot where it was discovered was on the banks of Saw Mill run, just below where the gas works are now situated, midway between the Germantown and Norristown Railroad and the Schuylkill river, but if anything somewhat nearer the railroad. A small frame house, occupied by an aged colored couple whose names I do not now remember, stood close by on the bank where the gun was found. Jaggers was playing along the stream that day, and thought that he had found an old iron pot, but on further investigation it was discovered to be a cannon. The news soon spread through the town, and a crowd was there in a very short time, I among the number, having run all the way from my home, which was at the corner of Penn and Cherry streets, and covered the ground in about fifteen minutes. I can locate the place at any time. Of course the finding of the old relic was the talk of the town, and the next day a large crowd of people, old and young, assembled on the ground to talk over the great find. Among them I remember Major Holstein, who was then ticket agent of the Germantown and Norristown Railroad, and who lived close by; Ben. Plumb, who was a conductor on that road; Capt. Thomas Potts, who commanded the old Montgomery Guards, a military company of the town; Benedict Potts, Francis Dimond, John B. Sterigere. I often think

of Mr. Sterigere; he gave me a good shaking once for attempting to take a bucket of sand from off the street. He was one of the borough fathers at that time, and woe betide the man or boy who would take sand from any of the gutters of the town. He claimed it belonged to the borough. And there was John Fry (every boy in the town knew John and his swivel), who delighted the boys every 4th of July in firing it off in front of the little ticket office of the Germantown and Norristown Railroad, which stood adjoining Twining's tavern, now the Windsor House. Fry took an active part in landing the old gun on the bank.

It was generally agreed by the older heads of those assembled there that the old gun was buried there by the Continental army before crossing the ford (Swedes' ford, just below where the bridge is now), on their way to Valley Forge, in December, 1777.

The cannon was dug out, and with some difficulty was safely landed on top of the bank. While this was going on, Jaggers and I, with some other boys, were probing the banks on both sides of the run to see if any more were there, but our search proved fruitless.

The cannon was subsequently hauled to the hay scales of Mordecai R. Moore's lumber yard, at the corner of Main and Barbadoes streets, now the site of Swallow's liquor store, and the adjoining buildings on Main and Barbadoes streets, and was there weighed. The weight I do not remember.

It was then conveyed to the corner of Main and DeKalb streets, and deposited on the pavement along the curb, near the pump that stood near the corner in front of Sheriff Spang's hotel, on DeKalb street—now the site of Baker & Grady's drug store, the Taylor House, and the adjoining property on Main street to the Brendlinger's store.

The cannon was a heavy one, some five or six feet long, and about eighteen or twenty inches in diameter at the breech. It had been thoroughly spiked, a rat-tail file driven in the vent, the two trunnions and the knob at the breech had been knocked off, rammed and wedged into the muzzle of the gun, and 'twas deeply eaten with rust. I think this cannon was

found in 1845 or 6. I cannot give the day of the month, although I was there on the ground a short time after it was found, and can locate the spot where it was found. I will venture to fix the year as above stated for the following reasons:

The Mexican War broke out in 1846, and the U. S. government established a recruiting station in Norristown, and located the station at Spang's hotel in a room fronting on Main street. The cannon was on the pavement at that time, and I saw it almost every day. I felt an interest in the Mexican war, tried to enlist, but was too young, so I was naturally much about the station, and saw the gun often.

Subsequently the rat-tail file was extracted from the vent with some difficulty, and a machinist was engaged to bore out the trunnions; these as you may better understand, in gunnery, are two cylinders at or near the centre of gravity of a gun, by which it is supported on its carriage. In a few days the obstructions were removed, but it remained there for some time. Subsequently it was removed to the lot where the county jail now stands, midway between Airy and Marshall streets. At that time Marshall street was not opened, and DeKalb street extended only from the river to Airy street, and the only two buildings on the lot from the line of the Episcopal graveyard to the old Green street road were the Presbyterian Church, since rebuilt, and the Academy, which stood abreast of DeKalb street and fronted on Airy street.

For many years it was used to fire salutes on the 4th of July, and on occasions of our victories over the Mexicans. The gunners were the young men of the town, and I will name them, as they were called then, Joe and Ned Cloud, Bus. Hahn and Ned., Ben. Johnson, Gus. Twining, and my brother Joe. The gun was sighted towards Sandy Hill.

I remember on the occasion of firing a salute in honor of our victory at the battle of Resaca-de-la-Palma, that nearly all the window glass in the Presbyterian Church and the Academy were broken.

In the fifties, while firing a salute on a 4th of July, a distressing accident occurred by a premature explosion, and a

young man by the name of —— Tarrance had an arm blown off clear to the shoulder. That, I think, was the last time it was ever used. A common fence rail was used as a rammer, and no sponge attached, and sod used as a wad.

Now, as to what became of that Revolutionary relic, and the reason I know it follows:

I happened to be home from the army during the civil war on a few days' leave of absence in 1864, and meeting Maj. E. B. Moore, who was also home at the same time, he asked me to accompany him to the Norris Works, then situated at the corners of Lafayette, Markley and Washington streets. While at the works I saw there the breech of a gun. (In ordnance, a breech is the mass of solid metal behind the bottom of the base, extending to the cascabel.) It looked very familiar to me, as I had seen the gun hundreds of times, and I made inquiry about it, and was informed by one of the workmen that it was what was left of the old cannon that was found years ago. The gun had been placed in a lathe and cut in pieces small enough to handle, and they eventually found their way to the cupola of their foundry.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, February 22, 1904.]

WASHINGTON'S ARMY LOCATED.

September 20, 21, 1777.

By Major William H. Bean.

Probably no better narrative of the campaign of 1777 in Pennsylvania has ever been written than that of Chief Justice John Marshall in his life of Washington. To the local historian the next most valuable aid to a clear understanding of that campaign is the Itinerary of George Washington by John Spohn Baker.

After the battle of Trenton, December 26th, 1776, Washington recrossed the Delaware to Pennsylvania. Later he returned to New Jersey, fought the battle of Princeton, went into winter headquarters at Morristown, and remained with his army in New Jersey until July, 1777, when the English evacuated New Jersey, went on board their ships off Staten Island, and sailed away in an unknown direction.

On July 31, 1777, having secured reliable information that the English fleet and army under the Howes were en route to attack Philadelphia, Washington and his army left New Jersey, and crossed the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry (now Lambertville) into Pennsylvania. The British army landed at the "Head of Elk," off Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland, August 25, 1777.

On September 4th a skirmish occurred in Delaware between parts of the opposing armies at Cooch's Bridge, the first fight in which the Americans under Washington carried the American flag of thirteen stars and thirteen stripes.

On September 9th the British crossed the line into Pennsylvania.

On September 11th the Americans were defeated at the battle of Brandywine, in Chester county.

On September 18th Washington decided to place the

Schuylkill between his army and that under Sir William Howe

On September 19th Baker's Itinerary reads:

"Friday, September 19th. I am repassing the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford (Lawrenceville) with the main body of the army, which will be over in an hour or two, though it is deep and rapid. . . . As soon as the troops have crossed the river I will march them as expeditiously as possible towards Fatland, Swedes and other fords where it is most probable the enemy will attempt to pass."—Washington to the President of Congress.

"The army marched southward from Parker's Ford, on the east side of the river, by the way of the Trappe (a village on the Reading road, twenty-five miles from Philadelphia) as far as Perkiomen creek, when it encamped."

"His Excellency, General Washington, was with the troops in person, who marched past here (the Trappe) to the Perkiomen. The procession lasted the whole night, and we had numerous visits from officers, wet breast high, who had marched in this condition during the whole night, cold and damp as it was, and to bear hunger and thirst at the same time."—Muhlenberg's Journal, September 19, 1777.

On the 21st, the enemy having moved rapidly up the road on the west side of the Schuylkill towards Reading, a depot of supplies, Washington marched the troops to within four miles of Pottsgrove (now Pottstown), eight miles above the Trappe. Here he remained until the 26th, when he moved to Penny-packer's Mills, on the Perkiomen, nine miles to the eastward.

The next entry is dated September 22d, and reads:

"Monday, September 22d: At Pottsgrove. The distressed situation of the army for want of blankets, and many necessary articles of clothing, is truly deplorable; and must inevitably be destructive to it, unless a speedy remedy is applied."—Washington to Alexander Hamilton.

"While the army lay near Pottsgrove (now Pottstown) Washington is said to have made his headquarters at the 'Potts Mansion,' erected in 1753 by John Potts, the founder of the town. The house, a notable building of the day, is now occupied as a hotel."

There is no entry for Saturday and Sunday, September 20th and 21st, 1777.

It is the object of this paper to supply the missing links and to locate Washington and his army on these two days.

These two days were spent in Providence and Norriton townships, Montgomery county. It is believed that on Saturday night Washington slept at Casselberry's house, near St. James' Perkiomen Church (now Evansburg).

It is likely that he slept very little or none on Friday night, September 19th, and Sunday night, September 21st.

On this latter night, i. e., Sunday night, at 8 p. m. his headquarters were near Thompson's tavern, now the Jeffersonville Hotel. The sun set at six, and the camp fires of ten thousand American Revolutionary soldiers were burning from Swedes' ford to the Perkiomen. Soldiers filled their canteens at springs on the farms then held in the name of Chain, Crawford, Bull, Rittenhouse, Norris, and Shannon.

At 8 p. m. based on information received from detachments at the fords on the Schuylkill between the Perkiomen and the Manatawny the following letter was written. This letter I believe has never before been printed.

Headquarters near Thompson's Tavern.

Sunday Evng 8 o'clock.

(Sept. 21, 1777).

Sirs: By order of his Excellency, I have to Inform you that this Army is about to March up the Road by which we came down & is not to Halt untill we get beyond that Road which leads from Parker's Ford into the Reading Road, beyond the Trapp—it is the Generals desire that you move on with your Division so as to be nearly on a Line between us & the Schuylkill, leaving a small Pickett at each Fording Place as a party of Observation. Generals Maxwell & Potter are to March up & Join you.

I am Sirs

your mo obedt Servt

John Fitzgerald,

Aid de Camp.

P. S.—Before you leave your Encampment you will please make large fires so that your March may be unexpected. You will also pleas give notice to Colo. Moylan that he may move in Concert.

J. F.

Genl. Sullivan.

Turn over.

Since writing the within his Excellency desires me to mention to you, that you order Major Jamison with a party of 12

or 15 to Philada. very early in the Morn'g there to enquire for Colo. Hamilton & give him what assistance he can on a matter about which he is gone.

I am y. mo Obedt

John Fitzgerald,
Aid de Camp.

Colo. Hamilton will be found at the City Tavern.

Earlier the same day the following letter was written:

Headquarters near Fatland Ford,
on Schuylkill (Sunday), 21st Sept., 1777.

Dear Sir: His Excellency wrote to you a few days past and desired you to hasten your march as much as possible in order to join this Army. He now repeats the request because as the River has fallen and is fordable at almost any place, the Enemy can have no reason to delay crossing much longer. He would have wrote to you personally, but is employed in viewing this ground and making a disposition of the Army which arrived here yesterday.

I am, with greatest respect,

Dear Sr

Yr most obt Servt.

T. T. (.....)

(On back) Fatland Ford, 21 Sept., 1777,

to

Genl. McDougall.

Washington camped on the 20th on the Perkiomen and Skippack, headquarters at Fatland, resting himself and his men after the weary all-night march referred to in Father Muhlenberg's Journal. He doubtless, however, pushed his men as far as Swedes' ford, September 20th, where earthworks had been thrown up.

On the 20th he seems to have gone by the "Church Road" and other wood roads to Fatland, and on the 21st thence by the Egypt road to near its junction with the Ridge road. He took supper by a spring in sight of Thompson's tavern. There are many good ones. It might have been Jackson Miller's or Robinson Kennedy's or Joseph Miller's or old Daddy Croll's or Boorse's or Rittenhouse's. (I give the names of the springs as I knew them in the early seventies.) He might have eaten his meal in a house or his faithful black man, "Will Lee," may have helped the cook to make a camp meal under some big

tree near some one of the springs named. These things are sure, that on September 20th and 21st his headquarters were at Fatland, in Providence township, and late the same day near Thompson's tavern, in Norriton township, and that on both Saturday and Sunday Washington and his army were marching and watching and camping on the road, on the farms, in the woods, and by the springs and streams of Norriton and Lower Providence townships.

In no published narrative that I have been able to find is any local habitation or name associated with Washington and his army September 20th and 21st. They are said to have been camped on the Perkiomen, but Washington's letter to Congress, dated Parker's Ford, September 19th, says: "As soon as the troops have crossed the river, I shall march them as expeditiously as possible towards Fatland, Swedes and other fords where it is most probable the enemy will attempt to pass." And I think beyond a doubt he did what he said he would do.

The following chronology is intended to give a clear understanding of the movements and whereabouts of the American army under Washington from the date of their entrance into what is now Montgomery county, on September 19, 1777, to the date they left the county, June 20, 1778, on their way to fight the battle of Monmouth:

1777.

September 19th, Friday—Washington and his army crossed the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford into Limerick township.

September 20th, Saturday—Headquarters at Fatland (Lower Providence).

September 21st, Sunday—Headquarters near Thompson's tavern (Norriton township).

September 22-26—Headquarters at Pottsgrove.

September 27-28—Headquarters at Pennypacker's Mills (Perkiomen and Skippack township).

September 29-Oct. 1—Headquarters in Skippack township.

October 2-3—Headquarters in Worcester township.

October 4—Battle of Germantown.

October 5-8—Headquarters at Pennypacker's Mills.

October 9-15—Headquarters in Towamencin township.

October 16-20—Headquarters in Worcester township.

- October 21-Nov. 1—Headquarters in Whitpain township.
November 2-Dec. 10—Headquarters in Whitmarsh township.
December 11th—On the march through Plymouth township to Matson's and Swedes' Fords.
December 12th—Crossed the Schuylkill at Swedes' Ford.
December 13-18—At Gulf Mills, in Merion township.
December 19, 1777, June 19, 1778—At Valley Forge, 1778.
April 22d—A day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.
May 7—Celebration of French Alliance.
May 19-20—Affair at Barren Hill.
June 18th—Philadelphia evacuated by British.
June 19th—American army left Valley Forge.
June 19th—Headquarters at Dr. Shannon's, in Norriton or Lower Providence townships.
June 20th—American army marched to Doylestown, Bucks county.

Fifty-three years ago on the 15th day of October, 1851, an ideal October day, upwards of two thousand people assembled at Marble Hall, in Whitmarsh township, this county, to view a block of marble taken from Hanner's marble quarries, and donated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the Washington Monument Association at Washington, D. C., prior to its shipment to that city, and to hear an address delivered by the Hon. William Freame Johnston, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Every State in the Union had been invited to contribute a block of native marble or stone, with an appropriate inscription, for the monument.

Perhaps there is no part of this State from which a stone could have been selected with greater propriety than from the vicinity of Whitmarsh. It was in that neighborhood that Washington suffered his greatest hardships in his Revolutionary career.

The block was pure white, not a bluish could be seen. The coat of arms of Pennsylvania was chiseled on the block, also William Penn's treaty with the Indians, all done by a Montgomery county man. I think the stone was donated by

PENNSYLVANIA'S DONATION TO THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT AT WASHINGTON,
D. C., AND OLD MONTGOMERY'S
PART IN IT.

By Gen. William J. Bolton.

Among the events that have occurred in Montgomery county that should be preserved in the archives of its Historical Society, is one I will relate, of which I was an eye witness, having walked to the place from Norristown and back. I will relate it as I remember the circumstance.

Fifty-three years ago on the 15th day of October, 1851, an ideal October day, upwards of two thousand people assembled at Marble Hall, in Whitemarsh township, this county, to view a block of marble taken from Hitter's marble quarries, and donated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the Washington Monument Association at Washington, D. C., prior to its shipment to that city, and to hear an address delivered by the Hon. William Freame Johnston, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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The block was pure white, not a blemish could be seen. The coat of arms of Pennsylvania was chiseled on the block, also William Penn's treaty with the Indians, all done by a Montgomery county man. I think the stone was donated by

the Hitners, but the work on the stone was paid for by the State.

The Governor's address was listened to with marked attention, and he concluded his address by saying: "Let all good citizens assist in the noble work. Let it rear its head to Heaven, and by the strength and beauty, by its magnitude and altitude, convey to an admiring world some conception of the character of Washington.

"As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale and midway leaves the storm,
Tho' round its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head.

"Fellow citizens: The monument of which that marble will form a part will crumble into dust before the Providence of God brings into existence another Washington."

I very little thought after leaving Marble Hall that nine years and six months later, under other circumstances, I would again look upon that stone. Strange things happened. I wanted to go to the Mexican War, the recruiting officer at Spang's hotel told me that I was too young, and that my time would come some other day.

He told the truth, and I am sure that my ambition in that direction was fully gratified. The civil war broke out, and I was unexpectedly elected a captain of a military company of your town. We soon found ourselves in Washington, D. C., occupying the First Congregational Church, on Seventh street. Some two or three times a week I would march my company to the Potomac river, near the Washington Monument, and of course I thought about the block of marble from Marble Hall, and saw it in its place. At that time, 1861, the monument was in an unfinished condition.

I well remember Governor Johnston's campaign, when a candidate for the office. He paid a visit to Norristown, and alighted from his car at Franklin street, and from choice or otherwise he marched with his escort to the Montgomery House, and from there to the court house hill, now your public square, where he delivered an address in sight of the spot

where a flag pole had been raised by the admirers of ex-Governor David R. Porter, and which had been decorated at the top with a "porter" bottle, suggestive of his name. One night it was mysteriously cut down, but the stump remained there until the hill was cut down. Governor Porter was born in Norristown, in the house now the residence of your President, Joseph Fornance. He lived there some years. Afterwards, when elected Governor, he lived in Huntingdon county.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, February 22, 1904.]

SOME MAXIMS OF ROBERT MORRIS.

By Ellis P. Oberholtzer, Ph. D.

You and I together—you in inviting me and I in rising to speak about Robert Morris—are guilty of a departure from precedent by no means usual on this anniversary. There is a fitness in joining Washington's and Morris' names, however, if their relations be little understood to-day, except by students of history, and we are prone to bestow honors manifold upon the great Virginian who won our battles with the sword, and upon Franklin who gained victories by diplomacy in France, while the other member of this triumvirate whose triumphs were achieved in the prosier occupation of finding the money to keep our newly formed nation from ignominious collapse is allowed to rest in an almost forgotten grave. Not upon Franklin, or Hamilton, or Jefferson—upon no one of all the leaders of Revolutionary times whom we delight to call the Fathers—did Washington more implicitly depend than upon the great merchant of Philadelphia; from no other did he obtain such loyal and ardent support; between no other two of the patriots was confidence and love exchanged more freely and generously. It is usual in thinking of Morris, when he comes to our minds at all, to dismiss him as a rich merchant. Many in his own day and some since have uttered the charge that he reaped private advantage from his office. It is an easy matter to show that Morris was more than a merchant, as pre-eminent as he was in every department of finance and trade. The office of Superintendent of Finance, which he administered with so much skill and ability, was not created for him until every other device for conducting the war on its business side had been tried to a conclusion, and all the ordinary means of making loans and raising revenues had been exhausted. More faith, new credit, larger measures, were imperative, if the colonies were to gain the independence for which they yearned,

for which they had been struggling for six years. The Continental currency was so worthless that barbers were papering the walls of their shops with it, and dogs ran up and down the city, their backs smeared with tar in which the despised money was stuck, to fly in the breeze as the animals yelped along the streets to advertise the bankruptcy of the government. Good and wise men were being mobbed for Toryism upon evidence that did not rise above the rank of ignorant suspicion, laws were enacted in public squares by mass meeting, and bandits filled the country roads, terrorizing women and children. Congress was powerless to maintain order, and turned in this emergency in 1781 to the one man—not in Philadelphia or Pennsylvania, but in all the United States—who it was believed could restore the nation's credit and bring the war to a fortunate end. By accepting the office, Hamilton wrote to Robert Morris, "you may render America and the world no less a service than the establishment of American independence. 'Tis by introducing order into our finance, by restoring public credit, not by winning battles that we are finally to gain our object." And when Morris was about to retire from his office, after Lord Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown, and independence had been finally achieved, Hamilton wrote to Washington of the great financier: "I believe no man in this country could have kept the money machine a-going during the period he has been in office. He deserves a great deal of his country."

But an estimate more interesting to me, because it is new (we have long had Washington's and Hamilton's), is that of Dr. Benjamin Rush, which has just come to light. Writing to Dr. Richard Price, of England, in October, 1786, the distinguished Philadelphia physician, sometimes called the American Hippocrates, said: "An important revolution took place on the tenth day of this instant in favor of the wisdom, virtue and property of Pennsylvania. Mr. Robert Morris, the late financier of the United States, is at the head of the party that will rule our State for the ensuing year. This gentleman's abilities, eloquence and integrity place him upon a footing with the first legislators and patriots of ancient and modern times "

This is the place to which history, I believe, will assign Robert Morris. He is to be considered not as a rich merchant, not solely as a public financier, but as one of "the first legislators and patriots of ancient and modern times."

In the past few years the nation has sought to satisfy its curiosity regarding nearly all the leaders who in the time of the republic's first days of stress contributed to the upbuilding of our great political establishment. Our devotion to the memory of this or that Revolutionary patriot has been indicated in biography and romance, and monuments to Washington, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Madison dot the land, testifying in some way to a disproof of the old maxim that republics are ungrateful. Indeed, we have got down to secondary characters in our desire to memorialize the services of men who labored in behalf of American independence. Yet I have been amazed in the course of my studies of the past year or two to discover how very little the people know, or seemingly have hitherto cared to know of a man not second to Washington in value to the republic.

In the city in which he lived for nearly sixty years, achieved all his triumphs and suffered his gigantic defeats, or practically from the time he came to this country from Liverpool to join his father who was a tobacco factor in Oxford, Maryland, the sum of popular knowledge about Morris is that he died in a debtor's prison—a most persistent piece of misinformation—and that he built a marble house in Chestnut street which he could not complete, long known as Morris' "Folly." "The Hills on Schuylkill," the beautiful country seat at which he dispensed his lavish hospitality to Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Jay and all the principal patriots of the period is in disrepair at Lemon Hill, in Fairmount Park, being in possession of a band of music and a restaurant keeper, while the crowds unwittingly come and go, romp and laugh upon this unmarked ground. There is no suitable memorial in Philadelphia to Robert Morris outside the hearts of his descendants and a dwindling number of old citizens taught by their fathers to revere his name.

Nor is Montgomery county entirely free from this re-

proach when we consider that he was long one of its property owners and occasional summer residents. He early purchased 160 acres of land in Upper Merion township, some two miles above Swedes' Ford, near Valley Forge. Here he had a grist mill, farm buildings, streams abounding in fish to which he repaired with his friends for rest and recreation. There he went with Washington in 1787 while the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States was in session in Philadelphia, the General catching trout on his preserves, and inspecting the works and entrenchments which the American army had built ten years before, already crumbling and in ruins.

Plainly the principal reason for our neglect of Mr. Morris is to be found in the fact that the indispensable value of his services to the government during the war was obscured by his colossal misfortunes in later life, brought on by speculation in virgin land in Pennsylvania, New York, the South and in the new Washington city, which left him and vast numbers of other people much the poorer pecuniarily. For long the memory of bankruptcy, sheriffs' writs, more than three years in a public prison, and unpaid debts aggregating millions of dollars could not be effaced, even though it was quite clear to every sober mind that no craft or dishonesty marked Morris' actions, and that he himself suffered vastly more by the failure of his ambitious plans to fructify than any of his trustful friends or creditors.

It is true, too, that we have not known Morris largely because of the loss of his diaries and letter books, and their inaccessibility to the public after they were finally discovered—it is said in France—by General John Meredith Read, one time our Minister to Greece. The romantic and mysterious history of the sixteen great leather-bound books may never be told—how they reached Europe and through what various adventures they passed before they came into General Read's hands. In his custody they were safe, although not immediately useful to students; and only since they have been acquired by the Library of Congress, at his death, has the material been at

hand for a satisfactory study of Morris' public life and private career.

Robert Morris was born in Liverpool, England, in 1734. He reached America when he was a lad of about thirteen years of age. His father, also Robert Morris, had preceded him as the American agent of a firm of English tobacco merchants, and the boy, left at home with a grandmother, of whose kindnesses he was afterwards often heard to speak, was consigned to the charge of a captain of one of the tobacco ships for the voyage across the sea. Robert Morris, Sr., who resided in Oxford, Maryland, contrary to a rather common supposition, if not wealthy, was in no true sense of the word a poor man. The son was put to school in Maryland and later in Philadelphia, whither he came in a short time to remain until his death. Here he was commended to the care of Robert Greenway, who in a little while, upon his father's decease, which resulted from injuries sustained by a shot prematurely discharged by a gunner on a tobacco ship in Oxford harbor, became his guardian.

The boy was now in a new world without known kin and practically friendless. With an inheritance, the residue of an estate reduced by numerous small bequests, and his native business acumen, which proved to be exceptional from the moment it was called into play, he was compelled to choose an occupation. He early entered the employ of Charles Willing, who in two or three years, desiring to escape further active part in his business and perceiving young Morris' value to the firm, suggested a partnership with his son Thomas. Thus was established the mercantile house of Willing & Morris, for more than thirty years the largest importing and exporting concern in Philadelphia and one of the richest and most enterprising in the American Colonies. Their ships carried merchandise to and from all countries, and it was no idle boast when Mr. Morris remarked, in reviewing his unusual life, as the twilight shades settled about him, "I have owned more ships than any man in America." His vessels under sail in the same sea would have comprised a great fleet, and their operations early gave him command of an ample fortune. He and his partner

were accounted wealthy men long before the outbreak of the Revolution, and, in identifying themselves actively with that movement, were valued accessions to the patriot ranks in Philadelphia, where so many citizens of substance were still openly avowing their sympathies for Great Britain.

It called for some sacrifice and renunciation on the part of an Englishman who, with affectionate feeling in the shadow of his years, still spoke of his native country as "dear old England," and a merchant—though this view is contrary to some extant accounts—who had much to lose by a war between Great Britain and her Colonies, to ally himself prominently with the revolutionaries, or, as we say more reverently, the American patriots. Mr. Morris acted with boldness and decision in this matter as in all others which ever in his life arose and called for a choice of alternatives. He was one of the committee of Philadelphians who in 1765 visited John Hughes, appointed upon Franklin's recommendation to sell the odious stamps, and secured from that officer, who at the time was in bed with a grave illness, a pledge that he would not be an instrument to collect this tax from his unwilling fellow-citizens.

Morris was early sent to the Continental Congress by the Pennsylvania Legislature, where his counsels were strongly against a complete rupture with Great Britain. He voted against the Declaration of Independence as untimely and as likely to defeat that object which the Whigs of America so zealously desired to attain. Of all the members of the Pennsylvania delegation who voted adversely upon the question of separation from England, he alone commanded popular confidence sufficiently to be returned to Congress at the next ensuing election, and, once embarked for the war, he was a most uncompromising advocate of its prosecution by every measure which would clear the country of British troops and establish America's independence.

He was at once engaged in service of the greatest importance. One of the unhappiest periods of the war—a crisis it was difficult to survive—was experienced in the winter of 1776-77 when Washington was operating around Trenton, Howe threatened Philadelphia, and Congress had fled to Baltimore,

leaving Morris at the head of a committee in the capital of the war-torn Colonies, to hurry forward the work upon uncompleted ships at the Delaware yards and, if possible, send them to sea before the British should descend upon the city. Morris, in truth, was that committee. With the loyal support of his friend John Hancock, then President of Congress,—another capable business man who understood the impracticability of too much consultation and discussion when great objects were to be attained,—he was for the time being the entire American government on its civil side. Whatever he may have done in strengthening the defences of the city, in arranging, with his exceptional experience as a shipmaster, for the quick despatch of the fleet down the bay to safety in the open sea, in directing the citizens as they departed with their movable goods to places of refuge in Lancaster, York, and other parts of the State, it is not easily conceivable that any smaller character could have secured upon a few hours' notice, on his private credit, the sum of fifty thousand dollars to forward the operations of General Washington. That it was this money, procured by Mr. Morris' single-handed exertions, which induced the troops, whose time of enlistment had expired with the year, to continue in the service, and which enabled the Commander-in-Chief a second time to steal up behind the British and Hessian forces near Trenton and administer the defeat that effectually protected Philadelphia from occupation by the enemy during that winter, may readily be demonstrated. This service Washington never forgot, nor should any American of this day value less the title to national gratitude won by Mr. Morris on this historic occasion.

The winters at Trenton and Valley Forge ended, no other season was gloomier or more critical than 1781, when, after five years of more or less unfruitful struggle, the public credit was entirely exhausted both at home and abroad. France had declared that she would supply no more money to her American allies. The American Whigs of most talent and ability, who, when the war began, had come forward generously to offer their services to their country, had left the national council halls to resume the direction of their private affairs, long

sorely neglected. The sessions of the Continental Congress were slimly attended by men of no great degree of attainment, and their acts commanded little public confidence. It was at this juncture that Robert Morris appeared, being again called to the head of the government, to occupy a new office especially created to tempt him back into the public line, the Superintendent of the United States' Finances. A single official was now to take the place of the old Treasury Board, whose members consumed their energies in the fruitless discussion of questions which they but imperfectly understood, powerless to enforce their numerous resolves. Not content with any partial authority, Morris absorbed several other offices and made himself at once the head of the Marine and Commissary Departments. Indeed, as the unfriendly Governor Reed observed, "he exercised the powers really of the three great departments [War, Foreign Affairs, and Finance], and Congress have only to give their fiat to his mandates." Once more he bore almost the entire responsibility of government upon his own shoulders. The War Department had no more important task than to secure pay and subsistence for the troops, and the Foreign Office had no duty to perform so necessary as the work of extorting money from European governments. Morris took all these lines of business into his own hands,—visited Washington's camp; coaxed from the States, under threat of military seizure, food for the soldiers and horses that were soon put in motion in New York for the descent upon Yorktown, borrowing the money from Rochambeau to pay the mutinous troops who, unpaid, would not go farther south than the Head of Elk; drew bills upon Franklin at Paris, Jay at Madrid, and John Adams at the Hague, and sent them skurrying to public and private treasuries to find the money to prevent the dishonor of protest; conveyed specie from Boston by ox-train to fill the tills of the new Bank of North America; issued his own notes in anticipation of the collection of taxes in the impotent States; sold tobacco in Europe, despatched his agents to the Carolinas for indigo and skins, and sent ships to Cuba with flour to be disposed of for cash to the Governor of Havana. From May, 1781, when the credit of Congress was at the lowest ebb, until

November, 1784, when peace was assured and the army had been disbanded, Morris administered the office of Finance with a hand as successful as it was imperial. His justification was found in the triumph of his daring policies; in the lifelong and warm friendships of General Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Gouverneur Morris, and the entire Federalist element; in the respect of the people at large, who revered his name and who sent him to the Constitutional Convention and later to the Senate of the United States from Pennsylvania to serve for six years as the principal pillar of Washington's administration.

It is through the manuscript books which Congress has lately acquired from General Read's library that we become intimately acquainted with the character of Robert Morris, which was bold, fearless in the right, large, generous and lovable, one that each man and woman of us would recognize wherever we should meet its like for honesty and worth. There are several political maxims which he announced and which became the guiding principles of his life. In that day, as in this, men engaged in the public service were bitterly assailed and calumniated, even when they were performing their duty with single-hearted devotion. Morris' enemies were particularly malignant, and they pursued him relentlessly until the end of his political career, or until, his fortune vanished, their shafts no longer had a mark. His riches were the envy of base and ignorant men. It was easy to say that his money had been obtained dishonestly in the public service, a charge that he met with exemplary equanimity and disdain.

To the Virginians who had reviled him bitterly for administering his office for the particular advantage of Pennsylvania he wrote in 1782:

"I am very indifferent to the intended attacks on my measures. If those ingenuous gentlemen can point out such as are more eligible to the public good I am ready to pursue them or to give the opportunity of doing it to themselves, provided they can prevail on America to trust them with my office which I wish were placed in any other safe hands."

To Mr. Comfort Sands Morris wrote in 1782:

"As to what you tell me of reports circulating to my prejudice, depend on it they give me no kind of concern. All my transactions are open, and I intend to give my country the pleasure of seeing that the expenditures are far more moderate than they have reason to expect. In the meantime any abuse or misrepresentation which particular persons may indulge themselves in I consider as the necessary trappings of office, and if they can obtain forgiveness from their country they will always have mine most freely."

To Colonel Tilghman he continued observations born of the same mood: "I am not much concerned about the opinions of such men while I have in my favor the voice of the wise and the good, added to the fair testimony of an approving conscience."

At other times Mr. Morris assumed the role of a public adviser. "Let it be remembered," he remarks, "that the country which will not support faithful servants can never be faithfully served." Again he wrote to a fellow-sufferer, Ezekiel Cornell: "I am not ignorant that many people employ themselves in defaming men whom they do not know and measures which they do not understand. To such illiberal characters and to all which they can write or speak the best answer is to act well."

Here is a model for the public men of the world. What could be better than indifference to abuse when we have in our favor "the voice of the wise and the good, added to the fair testimony of an approving conscience." What better than "to act well" in answer to those that defame "whom they do not know or measures that they do not understand?"

Another axiom fitting to this day, given up as it should be to patriotic reflection with the purpose of deepening our political convictions and of planting moral resolution in new hearts, may be derived from a study of this notable life. No man of his age in our politics had a more independent spirit, with the will and vigor ruggedly to fight for a view, which he believed to be right, until it should come to prevail. It was this quality which served him so admirably in his business relations, and he carried it with him into public spheres. "Difficulties are al-

ways to be distinguished from possibilities," said he. "After endeavoring by your utmost exertions to surmount them you will be able to determine which of them are insurmountable." He wasted no time in consultation with small men over trifling matters. He formed his own opinions and defended them with all the force that a strong frame and a great mind could bring to bear upon whatever issue confronted him, regardless of personal consequences. When in 1776 he believed that a declaration of independence from Great Britain was premature he said so openly, but with so much honesty of manner that he was returned to Congress, while the same act brought down upon others charges of disloyalty and Toryism. When he became Superintendent of Finance he boldly went at the task of collecting money from the States for prosecuting the war. Fear of unpopularity deterred him at no point from any act which was calculated to promote the great end. Day after day he coaxed, chided, threatened, assailed the governors and legislatures of dilatory States which failed to pay their proper quotas for national purposes. When Morris assumed his office the States were paying their taxes in specific supplies, that is in wheat, cattle, and horses—in food, clothing and material for the use of the army. Morris strove against great odds to put the system upon a money basis, and thereby drew upon himself the angriest charges. He abated nothing of his determination in this or in any other direction. To an agent in Maryland he wrote, with characteristic directness:

"It is a vain thing to suppose that wars can be carried on by quibbles and puns, and yet laying taxes payable in specific articles amounts to no more, for with a great sound they put little or nothing in the treasury. I know of no persons who want your specific supplies, and if they did, rely on it that they would rather contract with an individual of any State than with any State in the union."

This was plain language little adapted to make Morris a favorite in Maryland or in any other State, but he told the truth bluntly in his untiring effort to enforce the laws and procure the money to keep Washington and his army fore and fit for battle. He wrote to the governors, not once but dozens of times, for

information they refused to give and money that never came. He told them that he would have an adjustment of their accounts with the nation.

"These accounts must be adjusted as soon as proper officers can be found and appointed for the purpose, and proper principles established so that they may be liquidated in an equitable manner. I say, sir, in an equitable manner, for I am determined that justice shall be the rule of my conduct as far as the measure of abilities which the Almighty has been pleased to bestow shall enable me to distinguish between right and wrong. I shall never point a doubt that the States will do what is right; neither will I ever believe that any one of them can expect to derive advantage from doing what is wrong. It is by being just to individuals, to each other, to the Union, to all, by generous grants of solid revenue and by adopting energetic methods to collect that revenue, and not by complainings, vauntings and recriminations that these States must expect to establish their independence and rise into power, consequence and grandeur. It is necessary that we should be in condition to prosecute the war with ease before we can expect to lay down our arms with security, before we can treat of peace honorably, and before we can conclude it with advantage."

At times Mr. Morris' tone was such that he was impelled to apologize for it. In his famous circular of May 16, 1782, he wrote:

"This language may appear extraordinary, but at a future day when my transactions shall be laid bare to public view it will be justified. This language may not comport with the ideas of dignity which some men entertain. But, sir, dignity is in duty and in virtue, not in the sound of swelling expressions. Congress may dismiss their servants and the States may dismiss their Congress, but it is by rectitude alone that man can be respectable."

Later in that year Morris again wrote to the governors:

"There are certain arguments, sir, which ought not to be used if it is possible to avoid them; but which every one invested with public authority should suggest to his own mind for the government of his own conduct. How long is a nation who will do nothing for itself to rely on the aid of others? The moral causes that may procrastinate or precipitate events are hidden from mortal view. But it is within the bounds of human knowledge to determine that all earthly things have some limits which it is imprudent to exceed, others which it is dangerous to exceed and some which can never be exceeded."

No position required greater courage. It was Morris' constant duty to collect money; his endless study to avoid the payment of it except for the most necessary purposes. In no other way could he manage such a treasury as that over which he was called to preside. Since the government owed money to whomsoever did not owe it, when debtors and creditors were not one and the same class of persons, Morris stood up against practically all the inhabitants of the United States, preaching wholesome morals in public life, patriotism and sound finance without regard for the praise of his fellow-men, without thought of the place to which they would probably assign him when his term of office had come to an end.

Whether in an executive position writing importunate letters, or in a legislature defending a measure by his eloquence, no power intimidated him. In the legislature of Pennsylvania he "carried all before him," says one witness. There were laws prohibiting the exportation of commodities lest it produce a scarcity in the supply and enhance prices. Morris was an influence to abolish these artificial measures for regulating prices, founded as they were on economic error and superstition. He contended against the issue of worthless paper money. Later he headed a party to secure a new charter for the Bank of North America, which the ignorant opposed and compelled the legislature to return to Provost Smith the lands and buildings of the University of Pennsylvania, which, during the war, it had confiscated unwarrantably.

As one of Pennsylvania's first senators of the United States Morris was again the fearless coadjutor of Washington, now President, and of Hamilton, now Secretary of the Treasury, in passing the tariff law, funding the State debts and establishing the capital for ten years at Philadelphia, and thereafter at Washington, in the new District of Columbia. In the United States Senate his unfriendly colleague, William Macclay, of Harrisburg, watched Morris in the debates with the New Englanders on the tariff question. "I could see his nostrils widen and his nose flatten like the head of a viper," said Macclay, when waiting for the ripe moment he "clearly and conclusively took his enemies to task."

"Many who see the right road and approve it," Morris once observed in a letter to Franklin, continue to follow the wrong road because it leads to popularity. The love of popularity is our endemial disease, and can only be checked by a change of seasons." Morris, for himself, never knew the power of this infection. Popularity is still now as then "our endemial disease," although the seasons have been often changed, and security against it will be found only in the pure hearts, the independent minds and the great, rugged natures of our public men.

Again, to pass from his manner of presenting them to the views that he held upon public questions Robert Morris was a firm, unchanging advocate of government which knew and recognized its obligations. Self-taught in political philosophy his nature was such that he imbibed common sense views of finance and economics, reaching results by a direct road in the school of experience, while other minds were confused in the mazes of speculative wisdom, most of which at times was derived from the polluted founts of France.

Financial principles most injurious and wrong had prevailed during the war, and they had brought their own punishments. Meetings of mobs to regulate exports and imports and fix prices had paralyzed commerce. Unlimited issues of paper money had rendered it valueless. The repudiation of honest debts had made it impossible to secure further loans of money on public credit; they must be obtained, if at all, at the risk of individuals, and that was a hazardous exercise since the public was little more likely to reimburse Mr. Morris for an anticipation of a loan than the original lenders, unless he could cajole or press it from the States by the force of his own person. "The payment of debts may indeed be expensive," he wrote sagely at one time, "but it is infinitely more expensive to withhold the payment. The former is an expense of money when money may be commanded to defray it; but the latter involves the destruction of that source from whence money can be derived when all other sources fail. That source abundant, nay, almost inexhaustible, is public credit."

"Confidence is the source of credit," he said again, "and credit is the soul of all pecuniary operations."

"The principles of justice require that from a government which a court of justice exacts from an individual."

"Congress have done their duty in requesting revenue, and I have done mine in soliciting a compliance with their request. It only remains for me to bear testimony against those who oppose that compliance and to declare that they and they only must be responsible for the consequence. They are answerable to the other States, to their fellow-citizens, to the public creditors and to the whole world."

In January, 1783, having failed to enforce his very admirable financial views upon Congress and the separate States he forwarded his resignation, although he was later persuaded by his friends to withdraw it and remain at his post. In his letter of resignation he wrote: "To increase our debts while the prospect of paying them diminishes does not consist with my idea of integrity. I must therefore quit a situation which becomes utterly insupportable. I should be unworthy of the confidence reposed in me by my fellow-citizens if I did not explicitly declare that I will never be the minister of injustice."

At this time he wrote to General Washington: "I believe sincerely that a great majority of the members of Congress wish to do justice; but I as sincerely believe that they will not adopt the necessary measures because they are afraid of offending their States. I hope my successor will be more fortunate than I have been, and that our glorious revolution may be crowned with those acts of justice without which the greatest human glory is but the shadow of a shade."

To General Greene Mr. Morris wrote at the same time: "I felt the consequences of my resignation on the public credit. I felt the difficulties my successor would have to encounter, but still I felt that above all things it was a duty to be honest. This first and highest principle has been obeyed. I do not hold myself answerable for consequences. Those are to be attributed to the opposers of just measures, let their rank and station be what they may."

Robert Morris' first principle in government was its hon-

esty and integrity. A natural deduction from this principle was that it should have the power to be honest. I am treading here on dangerous political ground, but Morris was the first of Federalists, the first foe of states' rights men and of radical democrats. He knew, for he had had experience in the Office of Finance, that the government established by the Articles of Confederation was worthless, that any government would be worthless if it were not to some extent centralized, and strong, clothed with the authority, and administered by men with the will, to enforce its resolves. He did not believe in government managed by the masses of the people. "Men are more apt to trust one whom they can call to account," said he, "than three who do not hold themselves accountable, or three and thirty who may appoint those three." Here was the fundamental article of faith of Alexander Hamilton and the whole Federalist party. If the just debts of the war were not paid by the States the world would rightly conclude, observed Robert Morris, that "our Union is a rope of sand." "Your Excellency will be able at once to determine whether that Union is more than nominal in which any part shall refuse to be bound for the debts of the whole or to contribute to the general defence."

"The duty to pay is absolute, but the means can only be derived through the States," he wrote to George Olney. "If the States refuse have Congress a right to compel? The answer to this question decides whether we be one or thirteen." Whether we be one or thirteen was the keynote of Federalism, the demarking line between Federation and Confederation. Of the Articles of Confederation he observed very early in his administration: "The inefficacy of that instrument is daily felt, and the want of obligatory and coercive clauses on the States will probably be productive of the most fatal consequences."

Finally, in 1784, in withdrawing from his office in his address "to the inhabitants of the United States of America," to whom he rendered an account of his "stewardship," since "the master" should know "what the servant has done," he wrote: "The inhabitants of a little hamlet may feel pride in a sense of separate independence. But if there be not one government

which can draw forth and direct the combined efforts of our united America our independence is but a name, our freedom a shadow and our dignity a dream."

In the light of all these facts may it not be thought a little disgracing to Americans that in the one hundred years which have passed since Robert Morris' death we have permitted his memory to be obscured by one unfortunate event, know even his name so imperfectly that it is unrecognizable to very many otherwise well-educated people, and as yet have given it no place, so far as I am informed, upon a statue or other worthy public monument anywhere in the republic.

One century is gone, but the neglect can be atoned for in the coming century and should soon be atoned for, if we would be honest to ourselves and just to the memory of one of our greatest benefactors. Particularly is it incumbent on Philadelphians and Pennsylvanians, since he was one of them, although with a title to consideration that overlaps one city's or one State's confines to see to it very promptly that his important services are suitably commemorated. We can read his terse and vigorous writings. We can, I hope, either by private subscription or by municipal or State appropriation erect a monument to him in his own city, and it would be peculiarly fitting could the old mansion on Lemon Hill, in Fairmount Park, be converted into a memorial to serve as a reminder to the crowds which gather in its shade that here for long resided one of our greatest patriots, a pure minded, untiring servant of the American republic in its crucial years.

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THE NUGENT FARM AND COLLEGE AT GULPH MILLS.

By S. Gordon Smyth.

In the lower end of Upper Merion, in a nook almost hidden by the high ridge of hills which bound the southern limits of the township, lies the hamlet of Gulph Mills; the high arched bridge, the smith shop, the country store, the village school, and a chance house or two somewhat modernized—and the old inn are there, much the same as in other days—except that the inn, long ago familiar to our fathers as the “Bird-in-Hand,” has materially changed since the time its cheery custom attracted the passing traveler to inviting rest. More than a half-century ago Perry Hunter bought and had it remodeled for a residence, and it is now the chief dwelling there, dignified by a sober reputation and substantial durability.

The grist mill, from whence in part came the village name, is farther up the neighboring stream, in what is properly called the “Gulph.” It was built in 1747, and up to a couple of years ago steadily fulfilled its mission. In 1895 it was destroyed by fire, and since then has stood a picturesque ruin beside the useless pond.

Below the mill are the manufacturing settlements and their busy establishments, for the brook, that pours its tumbling flood along the western slope, has had, for an hundred years, the potency to attract to and make the valley resound with the clangor of industrious life. A fulling mill was the first venture; it stood upon the site now marked by Bullock's woolen mills; below it, and near the river bank, there had been a saw mill, and the dam is still to be seen near its ancient locality.

George Custer wrought woolen fabrics here at an early date, and about 1820 Bethel Moore established his enterprise, and, prospering, gave to the vicinity the name of his old home in distant Wales, “Balligomingo.” Custom has abbreviated this

to "Balligo," by which this lovely valley and stream are popularly known.

When the Revolution swept over the Colonial provinces these hills around echoed with the tread of British troops, and later on, when Washington led his discouraged army toward their winter retreat in the snow-bound glens of Valley Forge, the Gulph and its flanking slopes became the site of the last bivouac of that weary march. But long before these events had transpired this section of the country had formed a part of the great Welsh barony, of which our friend, Thomas Allen Glenn, gives faithful description in "Merion in the Welsh Tract," and the particular portion of it to which I shall refer is of a small farm of less than a hundred acres adjoining Gulph village on the lower side, and subsequently becoming a moiety of the many thousands of acres constituting the "Manor of Mount Joy," that immense patrimony devised by William Penn to his daughter, Letitia, wife of William Aubrey, from whom it passed, in turn, to her niece, Guilema Marie Penn. Afterward it fell to the possession of John Stephens, in 1761, upon payment of £30. In the same year Stephens transferred it for the sum of £40 to Jacob Weigerline. The thrifty Jacob managed to realize handsomely on his investment as at the end of two years he sold his land to John Hughes, and this is a record found among his papers:

"Jacob Weigerline, yeoman, of Upper Merion, county of Philadelphia, agrees to sell to John Hughes, merchant, of Philadelphia, the 90 acres for £394."

By this transaction it thus became part of "Walnut Grove" plantation, which has been the seat of the Hughes family for many generations.

At that time John Hughes was one of the King's stamp officers. History tells us that this was a very objectionable business, and became, in time, extremely obnoxious to the people. Notwithstanding these facts it is of record that Mr. Hughes performed his duties faithfully. It was while absent somewhere in the East that the stamp officer wrote his son Isaac, upon whom had devolved the management of the large estate, a letter, from which I quote the following:

"Piscataque, Sept. 5, 1769. . . . On my return I expect to find you married, when you may expect to receive a "deed for the Wiegierline place." . . .

On October 5th, just a month later, Isaac Hughes married Hannah Holstein; the clergyman officiating was Rev. Wm. Currie, a descendant of that Prof. David Currie who emigrated from Scotland in 1730, and entered the service of the Lee family, of Virginia, as a tutor.

The new property was admirably situated, and was undoubtedly a very desirable possession, but whatever sort of improvements the place possessed they probably stood upon the crown of a knoll rising to the east of the village, far above Gulph creek, so that they commanded a view of the valley, and were about one-half a mile from the homestead at "Walnut Grove." When Isaac Hughes went to live at his new home he gave it the name of "Poplar Lane." There is an old oil painting hanging in 'Squire Kinzie's office which represents the "Bird-in-Hand" hotel, and the scattering buildings, and also the Hughes place up on the hill, with its long, double row of Lombardy poplars bordering the lane leading toward the Matsunk road. When the Colonies declared their independence and patriots hastened to the call of arms, Isaac Hughes was among the first to respond, but we need not, here and now, dwell upon the achievements which crowned his valor, other than to say that when his duties were over he returned to "Poplar Lane," having won a Colonel's commission and lasting glory.

Passing over the brief years following his return from the war, we quote, from the annals of the Holsteins, this reference to the closing scenes of his life: "But a short time before his "health failed, Colonel Hughes built a new home for himself "and family on the hill overlooking Gulph creek. They had "occupied it but a short time when, in the prime of life, the "summons came to 'rest from his labors,' and he entered upon "life eternal.'" He died April 26th, 1782, at the age of 34 years. By his will "Poplar Lane" was bequeathed to his four daughters, Ruth, Rachel, Sarah and Hannah, and "Walnut Grove" became the inheritance of his son John.

About 1800 this young man acquired "Poplar Lane" by

purchase from his sisters, and, to quote again from Mrs. Holstein's Memoirs, we learn that Hannah Holstein Hughes, the Colonel's widow, who had still continued to reside at "Poplar Lane," four years later married the Rev. Slator Clay, who became afterward the rector of Old Swedes' Church, at Swedesburg.

Within the next few years John Hughes had disposed of "Poplar Lane" homestead in odd parcels to various persons; the larger tracts were bought by Thomas Lowry. After some years of patient waiting Lowry succeeded in gathering together again the most of the dismembered parts, amounting to about 78 acres, and sold them altogether, in the year 1821, to George Nugent, a merchant of Philadelphia, for the price of \$8000.

The new owner was not a farmer, but a successful business man of the city, and represented a very prosperous and influential element who were beginning to buy up, for country seats, some of the better farms near Philadelphia. There were several who did the same, and not far away were George and Peter Pechin, sons of Peter Pechin, a French merchant; Peter Legaux, the scientific viniculturist, whose place was at Spring Mills, and others.

George Nugent very promptly settled upon his purchase, and began to cut a figure in the locality. He was supposed to be of Irish nativity, but a gentleman of culture and education, and through long intercourse as a commission merchant trading with the French West Indies, he had acquired the manners and polish of a person of that race; he had, too, become quite wealthy in his business, and "Poplar Lane" gave him the opportunity to spend some of his surplus cash, and give free scope to the peculiar ideas which Nugent developed from time to time; and so, among the sturdy descendants of the Swedish and Welsh settlers, he brought his family, whose temperaments, previous environments and social affiliations contrasted strangely enough but blended in with the quiet, unassuming manners, habits and pursuits of his neighbors.

Among the changes wrought upon the property was to tear away the old barn which had always been ample to house the crops and stock of the farm, and erect, in its stead, an enor-

mous and elaborately planned stone structure, with a mammoth bridgeway, required because of the great height of the main floor. The new barn was constructed, it was said, because of a contemplated extension of his landed possessions, but was thought, by others, to have been the result of a lack of knowledge of the economic necessities of the case. The building would accommodate a large number of cattle and fattening stock, and storage for crops exceeding the most extravagant expectations from an 80-acre farm. Two large, one-story stone sheds, flanked the stockyard. Each of them was divided longitudinally through the centre, the inner divisions being intended for sheep and pigs, opened upon the quadrangle, while the other portions offered, on the one side, a shelter for the field stock, and on the other storage room for the farm implements and machinery, access being had through a series of arched openings. Later on, as the family grew larger and entertained more, for eventually the Nugents kept open house for all their friends, and there were people constantly going and coming, the mansion was remodeled and enlarged; the addition being ornamented with an imposing colonnade on the southern front, which has since been the admiration of the artistic traveler who may pass that way.

Some of the older residents of the community yet living speak humorously of the methods adopted by Nugent to protect the splendid orchard which he had set out on the hillside toward the village. It was well-stocked with choice fruits of different varieties, and in the bearing season offered a tempting refreshment to the youth from the neighboring mills. The boys then, as they still continue to do in other places— took the fruit for the sole pleasure and profit of robbing Nugent's orchard. To stop this annoyance taxed even the ingenuity and originality of the fertile-minded farmer. He arose to the occasion, however, when he sent John Latch off to Columbia, Pa., not long after the completion of the railroad from Philadelphia to that point, to buy car loads of pine boards, with which he was determined to fence in his orchard. My informant tells me that when the lumber came it was unloaded at Morgan's Corners and then hauled from there to the "Coi-

lege" farm by eight and ten-horse teams. The timber land on the adjacent hills supplied the posts and rails, and soon a fence twelve feet high, it is said, encompassed this Hesperidian garden. The stockade stood for many years, and eventually disappeared by the way of sundry ten-plate stoves in the neighborhood.

Many other stories are told of the unique ideas propagated by Mr. Nugent, particularly with reference to farming and stock raising matters. They were not always found practical among the farmers of his day, but generally provoked a kind of ridiculous criticism, which kept him more or less antagonistic with his neighbors in agricultural affairs, although for his personal and social qualities he was otherwise respected and esteemed. Mr. Nugent was quite successful in raising and curing pork. Much of it found its way to the city markets; some went annually to the far West, where he had a daughter, an army officer's wife, at some remote military post. A large portion of it was also reserved for the harvest time, and is still held in remembrance by those who found it the principal part of their field day fare.

George Nugent had a large family of sons and daughters. There were two sets of children, George, Jr., and Eugene being sons of the first wife, who was a West Indian, and the others were: Ellen Elizabeth, Geo. Washington, Rosanna, Tobias Wagner, Charles, John and Maria. Their mother was Rosanna Smith, of Philadelphia, Mr. Nugent's second wife. They are all well remembered by many of our older folks as being bright and pleasant young people, and socially popular with our leading families.

The elder Nugent established his son George in the woolen manufacturing business on Gulf creek, under the hill near the homestead, and the remains of the old mills are still to be seen overgrown with a wild growth of wood, having never been rebuilt after a third destruction by fire, a generation ago. Afterward George became associated with Bethel Moore. At the end of a brief but unsatisfactory experience the partnership dissolved and litigation followed; the result was that Bethel Moore continued in the business, while George Nugent, Jr.,

went to Philadelphia and began anew. In the course of time he made a large fortune, which during his lifetime and having no family he used generously for benevolent purposes in connection with the charities of the Baptist Society, for he had long been a member of that denomination, and had risen to prominence in its organization. His last years were devoted to deeds of philanthropy among the suffering and needy. He died in Germantown, in 1883, mourned and honored by all who knew him.

Of Eugene, his brother, I have no present knowledge. These boys were much older than the rest of George Nugent's children, and had been educated at "Clermont," in Philadelphia county. Ellen and Rosanna were sent to St. Mary's Hall, in Burlington, N. J., but for the rest, Mr. Nugent determined upon a more convenient and elaborate plan for their education, he resolved to build a school at home. About 1830, as near as I can ascertain or approximate, he erected a building at the lower end of his farm, at the angle of the Conshohocken road, adjoining a dwelling he had previously built for his son George while he was in the woolen operation on Gulf creek. This school building is of stone, two stories high, with basement and attic. It is about 20x42 feet in area, with walls 2½ feet thick, and most durably constructed. The rooms are the full-size of the building, well lighted and heated by four open fire-places in each room, two on each side. At the gable end of the building there are fan-light windows, two for each story. The basement was intended for a lecture hall, the first and second floors for study and recitation rooms, the attic probably intended for a dormitory for possible boarding scholars, for it afterward developed that the community should share in the advantages to be derived from the convenience of a select school in their vicinity, and those from a distance could be accommodated as well. Nugent gave the name of "The Collegiate Institute" to his enterprise, and engaged the faculty, which he domiciled in the dwelling adjoining and opening into the college halls. In my investigations I have discovered these facts: that a few day scholars from the neighborhood attended, and no boarders that I have heard of. They were: Wallace,

William and Davis Henderson, Henry Potts, George and William H. Holstein, John J. Hughes, and possibly one or two others. The faculty consisted of Rev. Wm. Shaw, an Episcopalian clergyman and his family; and the curriculum was the ordinary course of studies peculiar to the grammar schools of our day, including music and languages. The studies were unsystematically taught, the discipline quite lax, as I am told by one of the former scholars, that the boys could do nearly as they pleased; school could be adjourned for the day by any juvenile demonstration made during study hours, then the boys would make for the barn and find recreation and relaxation in sudry bames in and around the big structure. It is small wonder then that the existence of the "college" was brief, covering a period of a year or more, possibly longer, when it was found to be a hopeless undertaking, and principally because of the lack of patronage the venture was abandoned, the Rev. Shaw departed, the boys left for other scenes, and soon the halls and dormitory of the institution lapsed into a stage of innocuous decay. For perhaps a year or two this condition of things lasted, when finally "The Academy of Natural Sciences," an organization of the leading citizens of the county, then temporarily located at Norristown, accepted the offer of Mr. Nugent to give them a home in the old institute. As near as I can learn they began to meet here about 1840, and soon the "College" resounded with the discussions of some of the ablest and most advanced thinkers of that day. Among the members of the organization at this time were Dr. Hiram Corson, recently deceased; Hon. Jonathan Roberts, ex-Senator of the United States, then Collector of Customs at Philadelphia; Daniel H. Mulvany, of the Norristown Bar; Peter Brown, Samuel Tyson and a number of other gentlemen. From time to time there appeared and lectured before the society some of the well-known men of the country. Joseph H. Chandler, editor of the United States Gazette, lectured here in June, 1840, and Hon. Jonathan Roberts addressed the Academy September 27, 1842, upon the subject of "The Origin and Progress of the Human Mind." Through the courtesy of his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Tyson, I

am permitted to quote from his introductory remark upon that occasion. Mr. Roberts said in part as follows:

"I meet you on this occasion with much pleasure after a long separation. I am glad to find that in that time praiseworthy efforts have been made to continue the meetings of the Institute. I take my place among you with feelings of undiminished solicitude that we should carry out, so far as we can, the public-spirited purposes of our patron, who has done so much to accommodate and encourage this undertaking. We cannot but venerate his purposes in laying this foundation. It was utility and not fame which actuated him. He, we may be assured, seeks his reward only in the benefits that may thence be derived to the neighborhood. So much having been done, the obligation seems devolved on us to use due efforts to promote so laudable an end. In the attempt at Norristown to get up an Institution of this kind the want of a suitable accommodation for our meetings, for a lecture room, and for a cabinet, presented insuperable obstacles to success. Here all the acquirements are gratuitously furnished to us. A failure usefully to appropriate them could never be sufficiently regretted. I will not allow myself to contemplate such a result. It is thus I am now led to appear before you."

George Nugent died in 1849, and by the terms of his will this part of his property was left to his widow (with certain dower rights), and two daughters. At the end of a year it was sold by the executors to the Trustees of Gulf Lodge of Odd Fellows, since which time the "college" has passed through many vicissitudes. It still stands at the angle of the road leading from Gulf brewery to Berry's Corners. It is surrounded by a grove of locust trees, but you will recognize it at once by that academic dignity which still clings to it, though it is sixty years since its founder's folly made it an object of curiosity and pity. Daniel Kinzie is its present owner; and from a temple of justice, with the venerable 'squire as its president Judge, let us hope it may never degenerate to a less glorious destiny.

Concerning the dispersion and future fortunes of the Nugent family after the death of the father, in 1849, there remains but little more to be said; but they left an impression upon the people who knew them that is at once sad and pathetic, for tragic circumstances darkened their remaining years.

At the death of her husband, Mrs. Nugent returned to

Philadelphia and resided with her sister. Dr. George W. Nugent married a lady of this county and finally settled in Hazleton, Pa., where he practiced his profession for several years. He and his wife are both dead, but left surviving them a daughter.

Eugene, Charles, John and "Toby" died early and unmarried.

Rosanna and Maria both married and went away, but Ellen Elizabeth is best remembered, as she was a most romantic person and eventually acquired a national reputation. She was a beautiful, cultured young woman, with charming ways and a winning disposition, and in her day was considered the belle of the country round. She had many admirers, among them some of our well-known residents, but not least of them was the late Isaiah S. Williamson, the founder of the trades school which bears his name in Delaware county. They became estranged, however, and he never married. Elizabeth married, after a romantic courtship, Lieutenant Harry Wharton, son of Judge Wharton, of Philadelphia, and a graduate of West Point, and went with him to the frontier of the West, in those days a heroic undertaking for a woman accustomed to refined surroundings. For some years they resided at Forts Laramie, Kearney, Gibson and Leavenworth, and then returned here in time to see her father die. When the civil war began Captain Wharton went to the front, and his wife joined him. As Captain Wharton rose through various grades to a Colonelcy his wife became more generally known. During the Peninsular campaign Colonel Wharton commanded a regiment, the Second Delaware, and a near relative of mine, who was on the staff of General Woodward, commanding the brigade to which Colonel Wharton's regiment was attached, met Mrs. Wharton socially, and has spoken in high praise of her genial character. She was the soul of the camp, and many a dull and suffering hour was relieved by her gentleness and generous attention. Her charming grace of person and manner was irresistible; there was no gloom her vivacious nature could not dispel. Wealthy, brilliant and tender, she relieved the suffering, cheered the disconsolate, and imparted courage

to the wavering. At the close of the war, the Whartons settled first at Washington, then came later to Baltimore, where their home became the centre of the fashionable social circle of the military and naval families, as well as those of private life, until the tragedy of General Ketchum's death made Mrs. Wharton the victim of a chain of circumstances most painful and unfortunate, to unravel which a most brilliant and formidable array of legal and medical talent labored successfully. After a long and notable trial Mrs. Wharton was acquitted. Broken in health, and prostrated in spirit, she returned once more to the scenes of her old home in Upper Merion, and became a frequent visitor in the circle of her old friends and former companions.

Colonel Wharton had died before these events transpired, also her son Major Wharton. Mrs. Wharton lived in this county until a year or two ago, when she, too, passed away, survived by an only daughter.

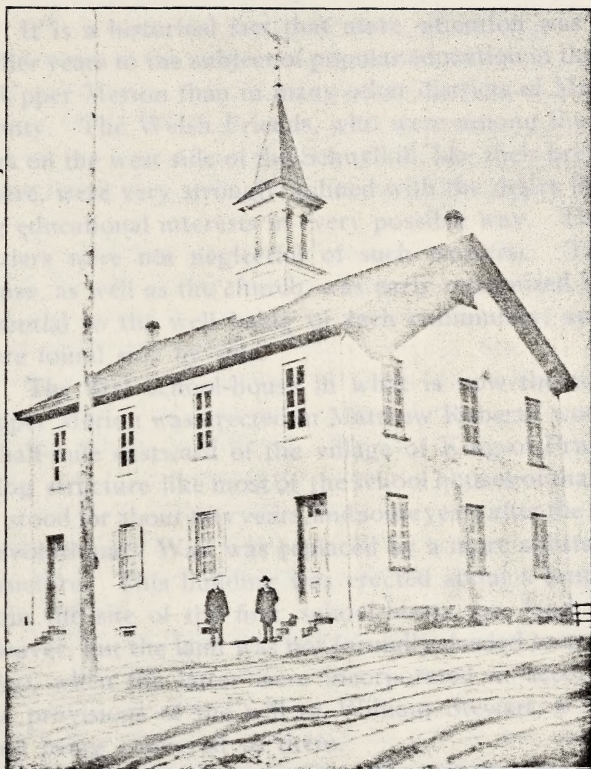
"Poplar Lane" is still an attractive old place, and it has seen better days, but none more interesting than those of the era of George Nugent and his luckless "College."



UNION SCHOOL AND STEWART FUND HALL, UPPER MERION
(FROM ELLWOOD ROBERTS' "OLD UPPER MERION SCHOOLS")

THE UNION SCHOOL AND STEWART FUND HALL.

By Ellwood Roberts.



UNION SCHOOL AND STEWART FUND HALL, UPPER MERION
(FROM ELLWOOD ROBERTS' "OLD UPPER MERION SCHOOLS")

the teacher of the school. He was widely known as a seer and guide. His "Tales of an Evening," first of a series, and published by James W. Ward, at Norristown, in 1815, are found in many libraries.

THE UNION SCHOOL AND STEWART FUND HALL.

By Ellwood Roberts.

It is a historical fact that more attention was given in earlier years to the subject of popular education in the township of Upper Merion than in many other districts of Montgomery county. The Welsh Friends, who were among the early settlers on the west side of the Schuylkill, like their brethren elsewhere, were very strongly imbued with the desire for promoting educational interests in every possible way. The Swedish settlers were not neglectful of such matters. The school-house, as well as the church, was early recognized by them as essential to the well being of each community, and the two were found side by side.

The first school-house in what is now the township of Upper Merion was erected in Matthew Roberts' woods, nearly a half-mile eastward of the village of King-of-Prussia, being a log structure like most of the school houses of that early day. It stood for about fifty years, and some years after the close of the Revolutionary War, was replaced by a more substantial stone structure. This building was erected about a hundred yards from the site of the first school-house, on land of William Cleaver, but the land was not formally deeded to trustees until 1810, when the latter were incorporated in accordance with the provisions of the will of William Stewart, a half-acre of land being conveyed to them.

It was in pursuance of this bequest that the present edifice, the upper story of which is known as Stewart Fund Hall, was erected. Stewart's will was dated May 4, 1808. It is probable that he had not been blessed with educational advantages in his youth, as his signature to the instrument was made with a mark. The witnesses to his will, Jonathan Roberts, father and son, and Francis Murphy, were well-known residents of the neighborhood, the last named being at the time

the teacher of the school. He was widely known as a surveyor and author. His "Tales of an Evening," founded on fact, and published by James Winnard, at Norristown, in 1815, are found in many of the older libraries of the county and in private collections. The Roberts family descended from John Roberts, who came from Wales in Penn's time, and whose son, Matthew Roberts, removed to the farm near King-of-Prussia, which afterwards became the family homestead, in 1727. Matthew Roberts was the grandfather of Jonathan Roberts, a very prominent public man in his day, not only in State but in national politics, being for many years a United States Senator. One of Jonathan's sons was William B. Roberts, a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly from Montgomery county in our own day.

The building known as Stewart Fund Hall, formerly the Union School, Upper Merion, bears the date 1798, when the more permanent structure was erected. No continuous record of the earlier teachers has been preserved, but one of them is known to have been Bernard McCredy, who afterwards owned and operated what became later the Wyoming Mill, at the foot of Swede street, Norristown. He was born in County Derry, Ireland, in 1775, graduating from the University of Dublin, and coming to this country when he was about twenty years of age. He had, previously to coming to Upper Merion township, taught for several years a private school in the city of Philadelphia.

William Stewart, the founder of the fund which erected the hall bearing his name, appears to have been unmarried, and to have had but one near relative at the time of his death, a sister, of whose marriage name as well as her place of residence he was entirely ignorant. His will follows:

In the name of God amen. I, William Stewart, of the township of Upper Merion, in the county of Montgomery, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, farmer, being indisposed as to my bodily health, but of sound memory and understanding, do make and publish my last will and testament, in manner and form, to wit: Principally and first of all I recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christianlike manner, at the discretion of executors hereinafter named. And as to such of my worldly es-

tate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and dispose of the same in the following manner: 1. I order that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid and satisfied as soon as conveniently may be after my death; and I do further order that all my real and personal estate, wheresoever situated, be sold by my executors hereinafter named or the survivor of them for the best price that can be had at their or his discretion, and I do hereby authorize and empower them or the survivor of them to sell and dispose of the same, and make and execute deeds or deed of conveyance therefor, as fully and effectually as I myself could do, and the proceeds of such sale or sales after my just debts are paid to be disposed of as follows.

Item. I give and bequeath one-half of my whole clear estate to the Directors of the corporation of the Presbyterian Church of the township of Tredyffrin, county of Chester, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to be applied solely for the only use and benefit of the said church.

Item. I give and bequeath to my sister, Jane ———, one thousand pounds if she shall personally demand it within three years after my decease.

Item. I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, wife of Matthew Dewees, fifty pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath to Mary, daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth Dewees, fifty pounds and one bed and bedstead, and sufficient bedclothes therefor.

Item. I give and bequeath to Robert, son of Matthew and Elizabeth Dewees, fifty pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath to Mary Campbell, whom I brought up, forty pounds. And as to the rest and residue of my estate, of what kind or nature soever, the same may be in Montgomery county or elsewhere, I give and bequeath to the only use and purpose of teaching poor children at the school-house erected on a lot of ground conveyed by William Cleaver to certain persons in trust for the use of a school on the following conditions, to wit: That the said residue of my estate to be retained in the hands of my executors hereinafter to be named to be by them kept at interest until the contributors of the school-house aforesaid shall be incorporated, and then to be paid by the said executors into the hands of the trustees of the said school lawfully appointed; to be by them kept at interest and the yearly produce expended discretionally in educating children within the vicinity of the said school whose parents are unable to educate them. And, lastly, I nominate, constitute and appoint John Davis, Esq., of Chester county, and Matthew

Roberts to be the executors of this my will, hereby making the aforesaid legacies and bequests by me heretofore made and declaring this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord 1808.

Witnesses.

Jona. Roberts, Sr.

his
William X Stewart.

Jona. Roberts, Jr.

mark

Francis Murphy.

Registered July 25, 1808.

The building was erected in 1810, and in 1818 Matthew Roberts became Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Union School, as it was called. He occupied this position for many years. E. Foulke was the teacher in 1818 and 1819. T. H. Ramsey held the position from 1819 until 1831, when Thomas Brown succeeded him. The amount of money disbursed during the thirteen years was \$1415, mostly on account of teacher's salary and repairs. The money derived from the bequest in the same time was about \$2500. The Contributors in 1831 were the following persons: George W. Shainline, John Brooke, John Buzby, S. D. Phillips, M. R. Moore, Charles Lyle, Jacob Famous, Isaac Richards, James McPherson, W. H. Lyle, William Cleaver and Jacob Hoffman. The Trustees were Jonathan Roberts, John Elliott, Jr., M. R. Moore, Jacob Famous, John Buzby, S. D. Phillips and Charles Lyle.

In 1835 the sum of \$909.71 was expended in the improvement of the school-house and the dwelling adjacent, which had been the home of the teacher. In 1836 William S. Abbott, who became a famous educator of children, was in charge of the school. Among the pupils at that time were the following: Hiram and Isaac Colehower, Eli Epright, Mary Lindsay, William and John Altemus, Ephraim Epright, Martha E. Adams, Hannah and James McQuaide, Martha Ramsey, James Lindsay, Jacob Famous, George and Catharine Snyder, Peter and Betsy Nepude, Rachel Tomlinson, Rachel McKenney, Benjamin Lyle, George Rowland, Samuel Mann, Mary, John and Peter Ryan. On December 28, 1836, it was resolved to conduct the Union School as a common school. The trustees, however, declined to appropriate the income derived from the Stewart

fund to aid the common school for the time being, but consented to rent the house to the teacher thereof for the nominal sum of \$30 per year. On September 27, 1838, the final step was taken, the school which had maintained a separate existence for more than a quarter of a century being placed in charge of the township school directors. Matthew Roberts continued as Treasurer of the fund and William S. Abbott as teacher. Soon afterwards, however, the change in the instructor came, William S. Abbott removing to Norristown, where he had accepted an engagement, and where he was a valued teacher for a number of years. On his departure from the Union School, the Trustees purchased his cupboard and cabinet of minerals. He was succeeded by Thomas Stanley.

In 1845 the Trustees were the following persons: James McPherson; John B. Adams, Joshua Molony, Jonathan Roberts, Jacob Famous, A. Shainline, John Elliott. Benjamin Ramsey was Secretary. An appropriation of \$130 and the house and appurtenances were voted to the common school, there being seventy pupils in the district at the time. On March 3, 1847, it was decided that the old end of the Union School building should be devoted to the use of the young men of the district for literary and scientific purposes. J. B. Adams succeeded Matthew Roberts as Treasurer.

During the summer vacation of the public school the teacher was usually retained to conduct a summer school for the younger children, his salary being paid from the accumulation of the Stewart Fund. This practice continued for many years. The money continued to accumulate, and in 1867 it amounted to \$6267.50. This included \$2000 invested in the bonds of Montgomery county. On March 8, 1873, the amount was \$6538.09. Ellwood Thomas was Secretary, and the Treasurer, John B. Adams, having died that year, David Adams succeeded him.

In 1876 it was decided, on motion of William H. Holstein, one of the Trustees, to devote the accumulations of the fund to the improvement of the school building and grounds. In place of the old structure, which had become considerably dilapidated, it was agreed to erect a new school building with a

hall in the second story as it now stands. On April 10, 1877, the fund amounted to \$8,000, and on April 14 of that year it was decided to make the building 40 by 54 feet, and contracts were awarded to Thomas H. Wentz, of Norristown, and others. The Trustees present at the meeting were the following: William B. Roberts, David Adams, Wm. Carver, Samuel Brooke, Wm. West and M. R. Supplee. The entire cost of the new building was \$4059.83, including furniture. The sheds and cupola, added later, cost about \$2000.

The dwelling on the premises was at one time used for school purposes, or at least a portion of it, as is shown by old records of the proceedings of trustees. Among more recent teachers of the school have been Martha Taggart, Ida Powell and Ellen Davis.

Enough "Contributors" to the Stewart Fund are elected annually by the citizens of the district to keep up the number to twenty-five. The term "Contributors" is to some extent a misnomer, as they pay no money into the Fund. They are chosen merely to comply formally with the legal requirements of the Stewart bequest.

The library, which has been in existence for many years in the hall in the second story of the building, was turned over to the Township School Board in 1896, and the Library Company no longer has an existence. It had a corporate life of nearly a half-century. Thomas Stanley was the first librarian. The Trustees were J. G. Darmaker, Ellwood Thomas, Thomas R. Walker, J. H. Trites, Havard Walker, and their successors.

Stewart Fund Hall is free for charitable and religious purposes, but for other uses a nominal charge is made by the authorities. No contribution is now made from the Stewart Fund in money for the support of the school, the use of the building and the coal supply being the extent of the aid furnished.

The acceptance by the School Board of the library and its maintenance by that body are in accordance with an act of the Pennsylvania Legislature enabling School Boards to use a portion of the public school appropriation for the establishment and support of school libraries in their respective districts. The library has been put in good condition, and a librarian em-

ployed at a salary of \$25 per year. Many new books have been purchased. Funds for the library have also been provided by public entertainments, and it is entirely free to all who wish to use it.

MAJOR ANDRÉ A PRISONER AT CROOKED HILL, DECEMBER, 1776.

By L. C. Williams, Esq.

Possibly no act of the Revolutionary struggle was more hotly resented on the part of the British army, or more regretted on the part of the Americans, than the military necessity which demanded the execution of Major John André, Adjutant General of the English forces in America. The discussion of this tragedy has lasted to the present day and has been hotly waged on both sides. A number of voluminous works have been written, countless newspaper and magazine articles have been contributed, while, by actual count, twenty-seven poems and ballads and eight dramas have appeared from time to time, all having this melancholy tragedy as a theme.

While his latter days are thus chronicled with the minutest particularity, we are more at a loss respecting the details of the early part of his career as a soldier in America. He joined the army in 1771. His regiment was the 7th Foot, or the Royal English Fusiliers. He embarked for America in 1774 to join his regiment in Canada, and arrived in Philadelphia in September of that year. He journeyed northward by way of Boston. He was present at St. John's when that post was captured by Montgomery November 3, 1775, and thus became a prisoner of war. The 7th and 26th Regiments were marched to Connecticut and then to the interior of Pennsylvania. The prisoners were confined at Reading and Lancaster. The officers were paroled not to go more than six miles from town, and among these was André.

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an artist of no mean ability, and an accomplished player upon the flute.

It was here while a prisoner of war that he formed the acquaintance of Mr. Caleb Cope, a Quaker, who was charged with too ardent attachment to the royal cause by his more democratic neighbors, loyal partisans of the infant American government. John Cope, the son of Caleb, then but a boy, showed such marked talent in drawing and coloring that he attracted the attention of André, and thus the two became fast friends. The boy became a willing pupil, and would have followed his preceptor to Carlisle, and no doubt later to England, had the Friends' Meeting at Lancaster, to which the elder Cope submitted the proposition, not interposed an objection.

Affairs at Lancaster becoming much unsettled, some of the British officers were removed to Carlisle in the spring of 1776, so that they might be accorded greater protection. André was of this number. He seems to have felt keenly his separation from the Copes, and displayed his disappointment in his letters to Caleb Cope.

The summer of that year wore away and propositions for the exchange of prisoners were made. The first mention of this by André is in a letter addressed to Caleb Cope, dated at Carlisle, September 3, 1776, the concluding sentence of which is, "I wish I may soon see you on our way to our own friends with whom I hope by exchange we may be at length reunited."

Again in a letter addressed to Caleb Cope and dated at Carlisle, October 11, 1776, he uses the following words, referring to the expected exchange: "Captain Campbell, who is the bearer of this letter, will probably, when at Lancaster, be able to judge what likelihood there is of an Exchange of Prisoners which we are told is to take place immediately; if this shou'd be without foundation, I shou'd be very glad to see your Son here."

No records are at hand which show the date of departure from Carlisle. That it must have been about the close of November, 1776, we may judge from a letter dated at Reading, December 2, 1776, addressed to Caleb Cope, in which André writes as follows:

"I cannot miss the opportunity I have of writing to you by Mr. Slough to take leave of yourself and family and transmit to you my sincere wishes for your welfare. We are on our road (as we believe to be exchange'd), and however happy this prospect may make me; It doth not render me less warm in the fate of those persons in this Country, for whom I had conceived a regard; I trust on your side you will do me the Justice to remember me with some good will, and that you will be persuaded I shall be happy if an Occasion shall offer of my giving your son some further hints in the Art for which he has so happy a turn."

They were now in truth on the way for exchange. Of what persons the party consisted, what commands formed the escort, or in what manner they traveled, accessible records do not state.

For our somewhat meagre knowledge of the passage of Major André through this part of what was then Philadelphia county and his stay at Crooked Hill Tavern, now the Sanatoga Inn, we are indebted to Anna Maria Krause. At this time she was in her fourteenth year and was much alive to the interesting events then taking place. Her father's home, and her uncle's, at which she spent much time, were contiguous to the Great Road, or Manatawny road, and as this was the main highway between Philadelphia and the army stores at Reading, she came into direct contact with events which were never effaced from her memory. In after years, at her home in Chambersburg, she was wont to gather about her her children and grandchildren, and at these reunions was usually prevailed upon to relate the stories of her girlhood and the events of the Revolutionary struggle which came under her direct observation at Crooked Hill, and later at Lancaster. The recollection of these times was indelibly impressed upon the mind of her son, Bernard, and have been preserved in what is now known as the "Wolff Memorial," a collection of writings relating to the history of the Wolff family.

The "Memorial" contains the following marriage announcement: "On Sunday the tenth of May, 1789, were married in Lancaster, by the Rev. Wm. Hendel, Christian Wolff, of Chambersburg, to Anna Maria, daughter of Jacob Krause, of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania."

The following record of André's stay at Crooked Hill is the account verbatim from the "Wolff Memorial":

"Anna Maria Krause, eldest daughter of Jacob and Christiana Krause, was born in Limerick township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, on Friday, the 25th March, 1763. At the time of her birth, her parents resided in a neighborhood then and still known as Crooked Hill, about three and a half-miles from Pottstown, on the road leading to Reading. Her mother was of the family of Dering, who before the Revolution were possessed of considerable wealth and influence. Her father was a farmer, owning a fine body of land, still in the possession of his descendants.

"During her childhood she was sent to a country school some distance from her father's house. The Delaware tribe being upon sociable terms with the whites, she was frequently honored with an Indian escort as she trudged to and from school. They were disposed to be conciliatory, to efface the remembrance of former treachery, and often gathered fruit for her by the wayside. Accustomed to see them daily, she had no fear of her savage neighbors, and found them entirely harmless.

"Her uncle, Mr. Dering, who kept a public house at Crooked Hill, had a daughter Kitty, of the same age as Anna Maria. These two young girls were tenderly attached to each other. Mr. Dering prevailed upon her parents to allow Anna Maria (or Mary as she was called for the sake of brevity) to remain awhile in his family. As the school house was close to his dwelling, they consented. Always a favorite in her uncle's family, and reciprocating their kind feelings, her return home was postponed from time to time.

"Whilst residing at the Crooked Hill, in December, 1776, a number of paroled British officers passed through, on their way to New York to be exchanged. The roads becoming impassable they remained a week at her uncle's house. Of these officers she retained vivid recollections, and often spoke of them in calling up reminiscences of her early life. Major André and Colonel North were of the party. Another, a young nobleman, was a mere stripling. With Major André she seemed particularly impressed. He was then a prisoner for the first time, having been captured November 3, 1775, at St. John's, at the head of Lake Champlain, and had been on parole about a year in Lancaster and Carlisle. She had described him as rather under the average stature, of a light, agile frame, active in his movements, and of sprightly conversation. He was a fine performer on the flute, with which he

beguiled the hours of twilight, and was an excellent vocalist. Whilst in Mr. Dering's house, Major André occupied most of his time in examining and drawing maps and charts of the country. She bore full testimony to his polished manners, and the easy grace and charm of his conversation. His engaging deportment rendered him popular with his fellow-officers. Mary always spoke feelingly of Major André, and in after years often sung his remembrance, as addressed by him to his 'Delia,' commencing with

" 'Return, enraptured hours,
When Delia's heart was mine.' "

The "Memorial" further states that Henry Dering removed with his family from Crooked Hill to the Conestoga creek, one mile east of Lancaster, in 1777, where he was the proprietor of a public house. Anna Maria Krause accompanied the family to their new home, thus keeping unbroken the attachment for her cousin Kitty Dering, and also by these means was enabled to have the advantage of better school facilities. The old Crooked Hill Tavern was burned a few years ago, but a new and more pretentious house was erected in its place. The site of the old school, on the turnpike, nearby, where Anna Maria Krause attended under the protection of her Indian escorts, is well known and within the recollection of all our oldest and middle-aged citizens.

The records at Chambersburg show that Christian Wolff died February 5, 1841, and Anna Maria Krause Wolff died October 31, 1854.

A few lines about the old tavern and its surroundings may not be out of place at this time. The records in the office of the Recorder of Deeds at Philadelphia show that Henry Dering, Jr., and wife by deed dated December 14, 1779, conveyed the premises to Michael Hynderleyder. In 1783 they were conveyed by Hynderleyder, the innkeeper, to Benedict Neidlinger, of Whitehall township, Northampton county. In 1785 they passed from Neidlinger to Henry Shelgas, and in 1787 they were sold by Zebulon Potts, High Sheriff of the new county of Montgomery, to John Richards, upon an execution obtained upon a judgment following foreclosure proceedings

upon a mortgage executed by Neidlinger to Thomas Mason, a ship owner, of Philadelphia. Since that time the owners in succession have been Stephen Baldy, in 1791; Henry Hahn, in 1794; Henry Wildermuth, in 1814; Frederick Missinger, in 1862; George Missinger, in 1880; George William Bonn, in 1889; George L. Lewis, in 1891; Thomas Beckley, in 1892; Caroline V. R. Ganger, in 1892; Thomas Mahoney, in 1896; Abraham



CROOKED HILL TAVERN, ABOUT 1777

"Since he returned to his native land in which both pen and sword were his resources and wanderings among Americans, Canadians, and savages. Everything of interest that he saw—bird, beast, or flower—was preserved by his brush in its native line, and the volume exhibited not only views and plans of the regions he had traversed, but of the manners and apparel of their inhabitants. Even through captivity he had saved this precious memoir from the hands of his captors; and it may well be believed of

upon a mortgage executed by Neidlinger to Thomas Mason, a ship owner, of Philadelphia. Since that time the owners in succession have been Stephen Baldy, in 1791; Henry Hahn, in 1794; Henry Wildermuth, in 1814; Frederick Missimer, in 1862; George Missimer, in 1880; George William Bunn, in 1889; George L. Lewis, in 1891; Thomas Beekley, in 1892; Caroline V. R. Ganger, in 1892; Thomas Mahoney, in 1896; Abraham H. Brendlinger, in 1901, and Frank P. Lauer, in 1904. The names Sanatoga Creek, Manatawny Road, and Great Road appear in the earliest of the conveyances mentioned, as well as frequent mention of the water-power grist mill.

You will notice the statement in the "Wolff Memorial" to the effect that "whilst at Mr. Dering's house, Major André occupied most of his time in examining and drawing maps and charts of the country." In the "Journal of Major André," published recently at Boston in magnificent edition de luxe, are reproductions of many maps and plans relating to the campaign in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, the originals as well as the text from his hand. This writing does not begin till sometime in the year 1777, after his exchange. It seems that he kept a journal since the time of his landing in America, which he managed to conceal during his captivity. It was no doubt this journal upon which he was so busily engaged while at Mr. Dering's house at Crooked Hill. Could this writing be found and made accessible, the interest it would possess for students of Revolutionary history would not be excelled by any other contemporaneous writing. In Winthrop Sargent's "Life of Major André" reference is made to his early journal in these words:

"Since he came to America he had kept up a journal in which both pen and pencil were tasked to record his adventures and wanderings among Americans, Canadians, and savages. Everything of interest that he saw—bird, beast, or flower—was preserved by his brush in its native hue, and the volume exhibited not only views and plans of the regions he had traversed, but of the manners and apparel of their inhabitants. Even through captivity he had saved this precious memorial from the hands of his captors; and it may well be believed to

have been of material service to him now. His memoir was well received; Sir William was delighted with its ability and intelligence."

The above is offered as a very incomplete review of a minor Revolutionary incident. As time wears on everything they did in those days becomes more than worthy of a passing consideration. A search of old diaries, newspapers of the day, and letters which passed between friends at that time might shed more light than we now possess. Let us hope the happy discovery may be made.

In conclusion it might be of interest to note that the last soldier of the Revolution who belonged to the companies from Pottsgrove was Jacob Drinkhouse. He was in Washington's army, and was present at the execution of Major André. He climbed a tree to see the sad sight, and had his shoes stolen from him. These he had left at the base of the tree that he might climb the better. It is stated that he was compelled to walk all the way home to Pottstown barefooted. He died October, 1857, at the age of 97 years, and his grave is at Zion's Reformed Church, Pottstown.

[Read before the Historical Society, at Pottstown, October 10, 1905.]

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too late, because of insufficient data. Then conjecture is resorted to, to fill up the gaps, and the conclusions arrived at are wide from the truth. One hundred and fifty years hence our descendants will be just as anxious to know of the men and things of to-day, as we are anxious to know of the enterprise and work of our ancestors and their contemporaries. We want to know and ought to know what our fathers were and did, that we may more fully appreciate our heritage. Family histories should be written, public services of men in Church and State put on record, and faithfully preserved and remembered. After all, it is persons that make places. The noblest literature is that which deals with human life. The streets of our cities and towns are eloquent to-day with the memories of men and women of character and worth who once walked these streets. They abide after their age has passed away. Being dead, they yet speak.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF POTTSTOWN.

By Rev. L. Kryder Evans, D. D.

It is with some degree of diffidence that I present this historical sketch of Pottstown. The time allotted me was short, and my official duties debarred me from giving the care and attention which such a sketch demands. I am greatly indebted to Mr. L. H. Davis and Mr. William H. Buck, and others, for valuable assistance in the preparation of this paper. How glad we would be for completer information concerning men and events of the early history of our county. We are so busy in making history, so engrossed with the *present*, with our eyes fixed on the immediate *future*, that we are apt to undervalue the careful recording and preserving of what is done. Then, after a hundred or more years have passed, posterity begins to realize the importance of faithful records. Then great efforts are made to correct and amend, but often, alas, too late, because of insufficient data. Then conjecture is resorted to, to fill up the gaps, and the conclusions arrived at are wide from the truth. One hundred and fifty years hence *our* descendants will be just as anxious to know of the men and things of *to-day*, as we are anxious to know of the enterprise and work of our ancestors and their contemporaries. We want to know and ought to know what our fathers were and did, that we may more fully appreciate our heritage. Family histories should be written, public services of men in Church and State put on record, and faithfully preserved and remembered. After all, it is persons that make places. The noblest literature is that which deals with human life. The streets of our cities and towns are eloquent to-day with the memories of men and women of character and worth who once walked these streets. They abide after their age has passed away. Being dead, they yet speak.

It is almost impossible to travel anywhere in this community without lighting upon places made memorable, either by what occurred there, or by persons who were born or lived there. There is no section of our great Commonwealth to which greater interest attaches than to Eastern Pennsylvania. There is not a nook or corner in which events have not taken place, and most interesting things have come to pass, which need to be preserved. A realization of this fact has led to the laudable undertaking of the organization of Historical Societies. I congratulate the Historical Society of Montgomery County on the success that has already crowned its endeavors.

When the first settlers came to this region they found it occupied by the Delaware Indians, consisting of several tribes, as the Shackamaxons, Shawanese, Mingoës and Conestogoes, over whom the great Indian Chief Sassouan reigned. These savages had withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia and came up the Schuylkill Valley, where game and fish abounded, and where the white man would not molest them. The ground which the borough of Pottstown covers was part of a tract of 14,000 acres, which Wm. Penn conveyed to his son John Penn, October 25, 1701. John Penn then sold the tract to Geo. McCall, a merchant in Philadelphia, June, 1735. East of McCall's tract, and contiguous, was the Manatawny tract, containing 22,377 acres, and which the Frankford Land Company, through Francis Daniel Pastorius, had purchased of Penn. This tract, however, was, later on, claimed by John Henry Sprogel, a native of Holland, who had come to this place and settled upon it in 1709. For a time these two tracts were known as McCall's manor and Sprogel's manor.

In the year 1716, Thomas Rutter, Sr., of Germantown (the ancestor of the Rutter family in Pottstown), came to these parts, bought land, built a forge and began the manufacture of iron. This was the *first* iron that was made in Pennsylvania. His forge was *one* of the first, if not the first, in America. It is generally believed to have been the old "Pool Forge" on the Manatawny creek, several miles above Pottstown. In 1720, four years after the arrival of Thomas Rutter, Sr., Thomas Potts, Jr., a friend of Mr. Rutter, also came from Germantown

to the Manatawny region, and engaged in the manufacture of iron. He was here in 1725 in the interests of, and acting for, Anthony Morris and Geo. McCall, who had erected a forge at Glasgow. After the death of Thomas Rutter (1729), Potts, in connection with Rutter's sons, became the principal proprietor of the iron works in this vicinity. Rutter lived near Boyertown, and Mr. Potts at Pine Forge. After the death of Thomas Potts, Jr., his sons carried on the business. John Potts, the eldest son of Thomas Potts, Jr., bought of Samuel McCall, Jr. (son of Geo. McCall), 990 acres of ground, covering the present borough of Pottstown. By this time a settlement had been begun here, as the iron works employed a number of workmen.

This town was laid out in 1752 and 1753 by John Potts, and which he named "Pottsgrove." At that time the town was partly in New Hanover (eastern part) and partly in Douglass townships, Philadelphia county. The principal thoroughfare at the time was the Philadelphia and Reading (Manatawny) road. Going east this road passed the Potts mansion (Mill Park), which then fronted it, crossed the Manatawny creek south of the present Philadelphia and Reading Railway bridge, south of the "Red Lion" hotel (Daub's), south of the Rutter mansion (corner of South and Hanover streets), thence south of the rear of the present market building (Auditorium), and entering High street near Evans. As this road was rather crooked and along which a town could not easily be laid, and Mr. Potts finding it difficult to adjust matters so as to make Queen street the main street, as he had contemplated doing, the plan of the town was therefore changed by moving one square (300 feet) farther north, so that our present High street became the main street of the borough. The town was laid out at right angles in lots of 60 by 300 feet. As Mr. Potts held a commission as Magistrate under the crown of England he would naturally, as a loyal subject of Great Britain, name at least some of the streets of his new town after the Sovereign and Queen of England. Hence we have a "King" and a "Queen" street. "York" and "Charlotte" streets which were likely named, the former after Mr. Potts' brother-in-law, Edward Yorke, and the latter after his wife, Charlotte. The other streets bore the

names of the trees with which Pottsgrove abounded, as "Chestnut," "Walnut," and "Beech." The newly laid out town was confined within the limits of Charlotte street on the east and the Manatawny creek on the west. Later on, when new territory was added and Pottsgrove passed into the borough of Pottstown, history had introduced new names, and which had a new meaning. The new streets were called "Washington," "Warren" and "Adams." When Pottsgrove was first laid out the lots were disposed of at ground rents. The conditions were that dwelling houses be erected within two years, with the privilege of purchase within the period of twenty years. But in time many of the titles vanished through twenty years' possession.

John Potts, the founder, died in 1768, and was buried in the family burying ground of the Potts and Rutter families on Chestnut street, between Hanover and Penn streets.

Mr. Potts had 13 children, 9 sons and 4 daughters. The eldest sons, Thomas, Samuel and John Potts, and his son-in-law, Thomas Rutter (No. 3) became the principal owners of Pottsgrove.

COLONIAL RESIDENCES.

In 1752 John Potts, the founder, began the erection of a large mansion west of the Manatawny, now Mill Park Hotel. His son, Thomas Potts, lived in this old mansion after his father's death. Samuel Potts lived in the house formerly occupied by the Hobart family, and now owned by George B. Lessig, Esq. John Potts, Jr. (Judge), resided in Philadelphia in winter and at Stowe in summer, in the house now owned by the Pottstown Iron Company, and at one time owned by Louis Richards, Esq. Thomas Rutter lived at "Laurel Ridge" farm, in a brick mansion, south of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, and now owned by the Pottstown Iron Company. Isaac Potts (son of John Potts) owned the Valley Forge Mills, and his house was the headquarters of General Washington during the ever memorable winter of 1777, when the American Army was in camp at that place.

Of the history of Pottstown prior to the Revolution little is known. The first inhabitants were for the most part men who worked at the forges, or were engaged in the lumber business. There were a number of Germans among the early settlers. The score of houses that made up the village were mostly of log or frame, and a few of stone. Among these early settlers we find the names of Rutter, Potts, Dewees, May, Hockley, Gilbert, Thompson, Warley, Paul, &c., &c. There were two grist mills here and in operation before the Revolution. One where Miller & Greiss' (Gable & Bertolet) mill now stands, and the other a little beyond the western terminus of Manatawny bridge, near Mill Park Hotel.

TAVERNS.

Tradition says that the first tavern in Pottsgrove was a log structure on the south side of Chestnut street, and west of Hanover street. It was the rendezvous of fishermen, hunters, and lumbermen. The first hotel meriting the name was the house near Manatawny bridge. It was known as the "Red Lion," and was built before Pottsgrove was laid out. It has disappeared, however. The next hotel was situated on the northeast corner of High and York streets. It was built by John Potts, and of brick. It was named the "Swan," afterwards changed to "Washington," and later named "Farmers' Hotel." It is now owned by Mr. A. K. Lorah. Thomas Dewees was the landlord in 1767. Another hotel was opened in 1776, on the southeast corner of High and York streets. It was a frame structure and called the "Rising Sun." Jacob Fritz was licensed to keep it as a public house in 1779. Jacob Barr, the first postmaster of Pottstown, kept it for a number of years. It was owned and kept by John Boyer until 1845, when he was succeeded by Bernard Weand. It was torn down in 1865. The site is now occupied by Metz & Leaf. This hostelry became noted as the best inn on the great stage route between Philadelphia and Reading. It was honored by the presence of General Washington and staff when the Revolutionary Army camped at Pottsgrove in 1777.

THE REVOLUTION.

When the Colonies rose up to resist British oppression, and the news of the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill reached the peaceful colony of Penn, many brave men in Pottsgrove and vicinity responded to the call "to arms." While the great majority were against England, there were, however, a few who sided with the mother country. As a consequence some families became estranged from each other, and some houses were "divided." Thomas Potts, the eldest son of John Potts, the founder of Pottsgrove, espoused the cause of Independence. He was an active member of the Colonial Assembly, and was one of three appointed to raise companies of riflemen. He succeeded in raising five companies in Pottsgrove and vicinity. The greater part of their equipment was furnished by Colonel Potts. Five companies from Pottstown and vicinity speaks well for the patriotism of this then sparsely settled region. Samuel Potts, the second son of John Potts, also gave liberally of his means, and did loyal service for independence. Dr. Jonathan Potts, a druggist and physician at Reading, disposed of his store and entered the army as physician, and rose to the position of "Director General of the Middle Department of the Army." He was held in great esteem by General Washington. Another brother, however, Mr. John Potts, Jr., who held a commission as Judge under the crown of England, took sides with Great Britain. As a consequence, his estate at Pottsgrove, the "Stowe" property, and his dwelling on the southeast corner of High and Hanover streets and other properties he owned, were confiscated and sold. Tradition relates that a squad of Continental soldiers were sent to Pottstown to arrest this John Potts. The soldiers surrounded his house, southeast corner High and Hanover streets, but Mr. Potts escaped through a window in the rear of the house, and for a while kept himself in hiding among relatives, and finally landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

His brother, Dr. Jonathan Potts, purchased the "Stowe" mansion and farm for £20,000 Continental money. His residence on High and Hanover streets was purchased by General Arthur St. Clair, of the Revolutionary Army, for £6,700 Con-

tinental currency. These prices seem high, but at that time Continental money had greatly depreciated. It was while General St. Clair resided here that he was elected to Congress, November 2, 1785. On February 2, 1787, he was chosen President of Congress, which office he held until November 28, when his term expired. As this happened before the adoption of the Constitution, he was virtually the first President of the United States. Pottstown confesses to some justifiable pride in the fact that a former citizen once occupied the chair as Chief Magistrate of the nation. General St. Clair, with Thomas and Samuel Potts, and others, was interested in the buying of lands in Schuylkill county. As a business man he was not a success. On February 1, 1788, he was appointed Governor of the North Western Territory, and to which he soon after removed. His home in Pottstown was sold January 1, 1803, by Josiah Wells, Sheriff. General St. Clair finally removed to Greensburg, Pa., where he died August 31, 1818. A monument in the Presbyterian burial ground at Greensburg marks the place of his interment. During the Revolutionary War Samuel Potts and Thomas Rutter (Rutter & Potts) were the owners of Warwick Furnace, in Chester county, where they made cannon for the army of Patriots.

WASHINGTON AND HIS ARMY IN CAMP AT POTTS GROVE.

After the battle of Brandywine was fought, September 11, 1777, Washington the next day crossed the Schuylkill and moved to Germantown, but after a day's rest recrossed the river and advanced to Warren's Tavern, in Chester county, with the intention of giving battle to General Howe. But on account of heavy rains and floods, no engagement took place. When it was learned that General Howe was pressing up the Schuylkill Valley intent, as was supposed, in getting possession of the abundant stores of ammunition at Reading, General Washington at once crossed the Schuylkill at Parker's Ford (near Linfield), five miles east of Pottstown, on the 19th, and marched down to the Trappe, and after two days' halt came and camped near Pottsgrove. Here he tarried from the evening of September 22 to the morning of the 26th, in all three or

four nights. Some authorities say the camp was in the vicinity of Pottsgrove, at or near the place now called Fagleysville. Other authorities say Washington camped at Pottsgrove. If at the latter place, then his headquarters were at the "Rising Sun" Hotel, and he was likely a frequent guest of Col. Thomas Potts (Mill Park). Three-fourths of a century ago there were old persons living in Pottsgrove who remembered seeing General Washington at the residence of Colonel Potts, together with such members of his staff as Baron Steuben, Generals Knox, Green and Lafayette.

It is a delightful thought to the people of Pottstown to remember that the great Washington and his army tarried here, if only for three days and four nights.

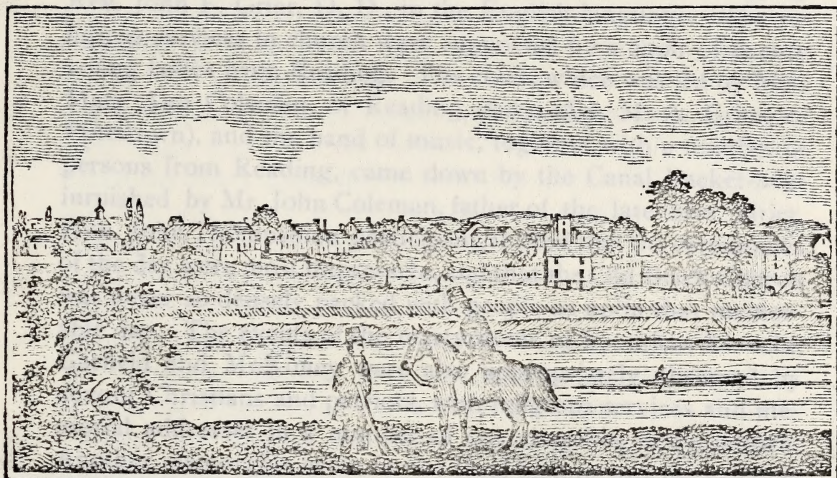
After the Revolution had closed, Pottsgrove grew slowly. Communication with Philadelphia was kept up by land and by river. The early German settlers in this vicinity were succeeding in transforming the wilderness about Pottsgrove into fertile fields, giving evidence of thrift and enterprise. As early as 1760 considerable produce was hauled from Pottstown and vicinity to Philadelphia, while large quantities of flour and grain, as also passengers, were carried down the river in the famous "Reading boats." Even in those early days did the ladies of Pottstown enjoy shopping in Philadelphia, going and returning in carriages, and frequently on horseback. The stage line between Philadelphia and Reading did a thriving and important business.

The shad fisheries were also worthy of note. In one year (1785) the catch at Pottsgrove is reported at 3701. The wharf was located at the foot of Charlotte street.

POST-REVOLUTION EVENTS.

The citizens of Pottstown have always kept in sympathetic touch with national heroes and notable events. On the thirteenth of January, 1800, a funeral pageant was held here at the request of the President of the United States in memory of General Washington, who died one month previous. All business was suspended in town and country, and a great many people were assembled in Pottsgrove. Colonel Francis Nich-

cls, an officer of the Revolution, served as Chief Marshal. Four or five companies of soldiers, one company of infantry (Captain McClintock's), several lodges, and the clergy participated. A coffin and bier, with hat and sword, were carried in procession, and all marched to the beat of the muffled drums to the old Brick Church, where an appropriate funeral sermon was delivered in English by the Rev. John Armstrong, of the Episcopal Church, and a sermon in German by Rev. Dr. L. F. Herman, of the Reformed Church. The pall-bearers



POTTSTOWN AS IT WAS ABOUT 1835.

were David Potts, Wm. Maybury, Wm. Potts, Thomas Potts. R. E. Hobart and Robert May. Another memorable event took place July 29, 1826, twenty-four days after the death of the two illustrious ex-Presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both having died on the same day, it being the anniversary of American Independence. The day was ushered in by the firing of cannon, and there was a general cessation from business. The tolling of the church bell and the beating of muffled drums and roar of cannon fired at intervals, added to the solemnity of the occasion. The procession formed con-

sisted of a civil officer bearing the Declaration of Independence, a delegation of veterans of the Revolution, bowed with the weight of years, the Burgess, Town Council, several of the clergy, lodges, and a long line of citizens. Dr. George Van-Buskirk and Thomas Baird acted as marshals. The procession was headed by a band of music from Reading. After making a detour of several squares they marched up Hanover street to the old Brick Church, where Rev. Jacob Miller delivered an appropriate eulogy on Adams and Jefferson in the German language. This was followed by an elegant eulogy by Rev. John F. Grier, D. D., in the English language. The religious services in church were supported by a choir of twenty young ladies from Reading. The choir, which was led by Miss Mary Ann Coleman, of Reading (later Mrs. M. A. Grier, of Pottstown), and the band of music, together with a number of persons from Reading, came down by the Canal Packet-boat furnished by Mr. John Coleman, father of the late Mrs. Grier. Hon. John Thompson, a participant, related that the ceremonies of the day were most impressive, and that the Old Brick Church was never so densely packed with people as upon that memorable day. The events of the martyrdoms of President Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley were also appropriately observed by devout Christians and patriots, with religious services and memorial addresses in a number of our churches in Pottstown. Another memorable event in our local history was the celebration of the American Centennial, July 4, 1876. A full account of this celebration appears in the excellent historical sketch written by L. H. Davis (deceased).

THE CHURCHES.

The first house of worship supposed to have been built in Pottsgrove was the Friends' Meeting-house, and soon after the laying out of the town in 1753. The ground was donated by founder John Potts. When seen by a writer in 1858 it "was a small one-story brick building that had been recently repaired by Joseph Baily." This building was torn down, and in 1875 was replaced by the present building.

The Reformed and Lutheran congregations are among the

oldest of the church organizations in Pottstown. Reformed and Lutheran clergymen preached here long before congregations were organized. Revs. John Philip Boehm and Michael Schlatter preached at Manatawny (Pottstown) as early as 1743. Quite a number of Germans were settled in the vicinity of Pottsgrove at an early period.

The first regular Reformed pastor was Rev. John Philip Leidig, who, while in charge of Falcner Swamp and several other congregations, served a congregation in Pottsgrove as early as 1749. The preaching was in the German language. A plot of ground for church purposes had been given to the Germans by John Potts soon after the town was laid out (1753). On this plot a log structure was erected, and which was occupied by the Reformed and Lutheran congregations until 1794, when the old Brick Church (Union) was built. When the Brick Church was built Rev. Fred Dallecker (De-la-Ceur) was pastor of the Reformed congregation, and Rev. Ludwig Voigt of the Lutheran. The Reformed congregation had services in the German language only up to the year 1848, when Rev. N. S. Strassburger organized an English congregation. This English congregation worshipped in the same Brick Church. In 1854 Dr. N. S. Strassburger became pastor of both the English and German congregations. In 1864 the German and English Reformed congregations were consolidated, and became known as Trinity Reformed Church. This congregation felt the need of a church of their own in order that they might have more frequent services. A lot of ground was secured on the corner of King and Hanover streets and steps taken to erect a new church. The corner-stone was laid on Trinity Sunday, 1865. The congregation occupied the basement of the new building in March, 1867, and the church was completed and finally dedicated November, 1868. The following have served as pastors in this mother Reformed Church in Pottstown: John Philip Leidich, 1749-1783; Frederick Dallecker, 1784-1800; Frederick L. Herman, D. D., 1800-1838; Lewis C. Herman, 1838-1854; N. S. Strassburger, D. D., 1848-1863; Joseph H. Dubbs, D. D., 1863-1871; L. Kryder Evans, D. D., 1871—the present pastor. Soon after the dedication of

Trinity's new house of worship a number of her members quietly and peaceably withdrew, and were organized into Zion's Reformed congregation and occupied the old Brick Church. Rev. L. D. Leberman became their pastor in October, 1869. Trinity then sold her interests (one-half) in the old Brick Church to Zion's Reformed congregation for one dollar. Rev. Leberman served the congregation until 1874, when he resigned. Rev. C. H. Herbst became his successor in 1882, and served them till December, 1883, when he resigned and organized St. Stephen's Reformed congregation early in the year 1884. Rev. C. S. Weand then supplied Zion's Reformed congregation until he was installed as pastor in July, 1884, and is the present pastor.

Zion's (Brick Church) is the oldest church building in Pottstown. It was erected in 1796. The estimated cost was £1657 10s., or \$4,420. This, according to the builder, was "A Ruf Carqulation." But the cost exceeded the estimate, and was about \$6000. Strange to say no stoves were used in this church until the year 1812, when Mrs. Joanna H. Potts, widow of Samuel Potts, presented the congregation with two stoves. The church is still in use, and is in fine condition.

St. Stephen's (now St. Paul's) Reformed Church is situated on the southeast corner of Walnut and Penn streets, and was erected in 1885, and has been served by the following named pastors: Rev. C. H. Herbst, M. H. Mishler, J. G. Kerschner, and Frank P. Laros, the present pastor.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church is among the oldest of the church organizations in Pottstown. Lutheran ministers preached here at an early date, but only at intervals. The first Lutheran congregation was organized by Rev. John Voigt, sometime after Nov. 8, 1772. As he lived remote, his visits were not very frequent until 1776. He continued to serve in Pottstown up to 1800. Before the old Brick Church was built, the Lutherans occupied a log church on the site of the present Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church (Hanover and Walnut streets), and in which church the Reformed people also worshipped. Among the Lutheran pastors we note the following: Rev. John F. Weinland, 1799-1806; Rev. Dr. Fred

William Geissenhainer, 1870-1808; John Peter Hecht, 1809-1813; John Ernst Louis Brauns, 1814-1815; Henry A. Geissenhainer, 1816-1821; Conrad Miller, 1823-1848. The services were conducted in the German language.

The first English Lutheran congregation was organized 1834, and which also worshipped in the Brick Church. Rev. J. W. Richards was the first pastor. He resigned in 1836, and was succeeded by the following pastors in order: Rev. Jacob Wampole, 1836-38; Rev. Henry I. Miller, 1838-48. In the summer of 1848 Rev. Conrad Miller transferred the German congregation that he served to his nephew, Rev. Geo. F. Miller, who could also preach in the German language. The English element in the congregation continued restive, and eventually the erection of a new (English) Lutheran Church was decided on. A lot was secured on the corner of Hanover and Chestnut streets, and the corner-stone laid on August 5, 1859. The church was completed and consecrated February 16, 1861, the corporation title of which is "The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration." Rev. George F. Miller was the first pastor. After the resignation of the pastorate of the German Lutheran congregation by Rev. Conrad Miller, Rev. A. Wendt was elected, and served from 1861-64; Rev. Abram H. Groh, 1864-65; Rev. W. G. Laitzle, 1866-74; Rev. D. K. Kepner, 1875-97; Rev. I. B. Kurtz, 1897, and is the present pastor.

Rev. Geo. F. Miller resigned the pastorate of the Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration in 1868. He was succeeded by Rev. George W. Schmucker, 1868-70; Rev. Chas. Korner 1871-80; Rev. Dr. B. M. Schmucker, 1861-1888; Rev. Dr. O. P. Smith, 1889, and who is the present pastor.

The Episcopal Church and congregation was organized in 1828, although services were held at times by Rev. Dr. Bull and Rev. George Mintzer in the old Brick Church. A brick church was built on the corner of Hanover and Queen streets and dedicated January 18, 1833. In 1845 another church was erected on High street, and a chapel in 1867. The present church, on the site of the old church, was erected in 1872. Rev. F. W. Jewel is the present pastor.

The First Methodist Episcopal congregation was organized in 1838, and a church was erected in 1839. In 1869, the old church was torn down and a new church erected on the same site, and dedicated 1871. Rev. W. H. Ford is the present pastor.

The First Presbyterian congregation was organized in May, 1848. A church was begun in 1851, and completed in May, 1853. This building was torn down, and the present building completed June, 1889. Rev. H. M. Dyckman is the present pastor.

The First Baptist Church was organized in May, 1858. A church building was begun the same year and completed in 1859. Rev. David Jeffries, who had organized the congregation, continued as its pastor until his death, Nov. 30, 1860. The following persons served as pastors: Rev. David Jeffries, Jan. 1, 1859-Nov. 28, 1860; John Y. Entricken, 1861-1862; Robert Dunlap, 1862-1865; Simon Siegfried, 1865-1867; Maris Gibson, M. D., 1867-1869; Geo. M. Slaysman, 1870-1872; W. A. Mentzer, 1873-1875; N. C. Naylor, 1875-1884; B. G. Parker, 1884-1890; James L. Davis, 1891-1905; J. Francis Behrens, 1905, the present pastor.

The St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Hanover and Beech streets, was built about the year 1855-6, under the direction of Rev. O. Farrall, of Phoenixville. Prior to this, however, Mass was celebrated in private houses. The present beautiful church building, occupying the site of the old church building, begun 1889, was dedicated Dec. 20, 1891. Rev. M. H. Gormley is the present pastor.

Salem Church of the Evangelical Association, corner of Franklin and Beech streets, was built in 1870. The congregation was organized the year previous. Rev. A. E. Williams is the present pastor.

Balzel Memorial U. B. Church, on Walnut, east of Washington, was built in ——. Rev. Henry F. McNelly is pastor.

Trinity Church of the United Evangelical Association, corner of Walnut and Franklin streets, was built in 1893. The present pastor is Rev. John G. Sands.

The African M. E. Church, northeast corner of Franklin and Beech streets, was erected in 1870, and is of brick. Several years previous a frame church had been erected on the site, but was burned down.

St. Paul's Reformed Sunday School Chapel, at Stowe, was built in 1888. The flourishing Sunday school now occupying it was organized in the public school house, near the chapel, April 11, 1886. The chapel has a seating capacity of 250. Rev. Dr. Evans, of Trinity Reformed Church, Pottstown, preaches in the chapel occasionally.

St. Peter's Lutheran Chapel, at Stowe, and St. James' Chapel, east of the Hill School, have flourishing Sunday schools and organized congregations, forming a pastoral charge, and of which Rev. L. J. Bickel is pastor.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, on the corner of Evans and West streets, was built 1896. Rev. J. J. Kline is pastor.

The Mennonite Church, Evans and Oak streets, was built in 1894. Rev. Wm. Gottshall is pastor.

There are quite a number of secret orders and beneficial societies, several musical organizations, and a flourishing Y. M. C. A. in the borough.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The first Sunday school established in Pottstown was organized in 1815 by Rev. Jacob Douglass, an Episcopal clergyman. From all we can learn it was not strictly Episcopal, although its officers, teachers and supporters were principally members of the Episcopal Church. The school at first occupied a very ancient structure, and which came down from the period of the Revolution. It was first erected as a brewery, then used as a stable, and later fitted up for church and Sunday school purposes. It was situated on the southwest corner of Hanover street and the Philadelphia and Reading Railway tracks. About the year 1822 this Sunday school was removed and took possession of the old log school house, corner of Penn and Walnut streets, and where St. Stephen's Reformed Church now stands. When the Academy building was com-

pleted on Chestnut street, east of the old Brick Church, the Sunday school was again removed and took possession of the Academy, about the year 1834. Mr. John Rutter, then proprietor of Pine Iron Works, was the Superintendent. In the meantime a second Sunday school was organized, composed for the most part of Reformed and Lutheran members and children. This organization was chiefly brought about by Rev H. S. Miller, pastor of the English Lutheran congregation. This Sunday school at first occupied a small building, which stood on the lot of ground where the Washington public school building now stands. When the Episcopal Church building on High street was completed, in 1845, the Sunday school in the Academy was transferred to that building and reorganized as an Episcopal Sunday school. Many of the teachers and scholars and supporters of the Sunday school in the Academy identified themselves with the Episcopal Sunday school in their new building. After the Academy was vacated, the second Sunday school, above mentioned, took possession, in 1845 or 1846. Mr. Abraham Smith, of the Reformed Church, and Mr. Thomas G. Rutter, of the English Lutheran Church, were the Superintendents of this Union Sunday school. Mr. Rutter is still living, a most worthy citizen, and is "hale and hearty" in his 78th year. About the time the older Sunday school vacated the old Academy, other distinctively denominational Sunday schools were organized, as the Methodist Episcopal, and the Union Sunday school of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches.

The first Sunday school "Celebration" was held by the second or Union Sunday school (Reformed and Lutheran) on Aug. 29, 1846. The school, with the three pastors, L. C. Herman, Reformed; Conrad Miller, German Lutheran; Henry S. Miller, English Lutheran, and Governor Francis R. Shunk, preceded by the Mechanics' Band, and followed by the school, marched to Charles Mauger's wood. But soon the festivities of the day were suddenly interfered with. A great thunder storm hurried the celebrants back to town with some celerity. The doors of the old Brick Church were thrown open, and soon the house was filled with men, women and children. Ad-

dressess were delivered in German and English by Governor Shunk and the pastors. According to the report of the Secretary the school then numbered 246. Of this number 196 used the English and 50 the German language. Pastors L. C. Herman and Conrad Miller had opposed the establishment of Sunday schools. This may account for the small number using German. But at that time already the public schools were entirely English. As the "tide" was against these pastors they finally surrendered "unconditionally."

The increase in the number of Sunday school scholars rendered the accommodations in the Academy building inadequate. A room was secured and fitted up on the second floor of Hon. John C. Smith's (now Kulp's Block) building, northwest corner of High and Hanover streets. The school took possession of their new quarters October 13, 1850. Mr. Mark H. Richards, who had been an officer of the school while in the Academy, now became the Superintendent, and in which capacity he served faithfully and well for a period of twelve years, to March 3, 1861, when this Union school was dissolved. The Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration was now about completed. On February 23, 1861, the Reformed members and patrons of the old Union Sunday school met, adopted a constitution and elected Sunday school officers. On Sunday afternoon, March 3, 1861, the old Union Sunday school in Smith's Hall met for the last time. Rev. George F. Miller, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration, was present and delivered an address. Mr. Mark H. Richards made the closing address, and announced that the Reformed Sunday school would meet in this place next Sunday. On March 10, 1861, the English Lutheran members and children met for the first time in their new church, and the Reformed members and children met in Smith's Hall. A number of the German Lutherans that remained with the Reformed Sunday school. On March 24, 1867, the Reformed Sunday school marched from Smith's Hall to the new Trinity Reformed Church, occupying the basement. Emanuel Lutheran Sunday school's organization in the old Brick Church was formed June 12, 1864, Rev. Wendt being pastor. This school was removed to

Market Hall, remaining there till the basement of Emanuel Lutheran Church was completed, and the school was transferred to their new "home" March 26, 1872. To-day the Sunday school forces in Pottstown are strong, and the good work is being carried forward with gratifying results.

CEMETERIES.

The first ground set aside for burial purposes was the Sprogel burial ground. John Henry Sprogel gave the ground, and the first interment was that of Frederick Sprogel, son of John Henry Sprogel (aged one year), in 1716; and the second interment was that of Mr. Sprogel's wife Dorothy, in 1718 (aged 40 years). Soon after the forming of Pottsgrove, the burial ground of the Potts family, on Chestnut street, was donated by John Potts. Quite a number of the early residents of the Potts, Hobart and Rutter families are buried here. The grave-yard between Zion's Reformed and Emanuel Lutheran Churches comes next in the line of age. Interments were made there before and after the Revolution. The first lot used by the Reformed and Lutheran Churches as a burial place was No. 89 of the Town Plot, obtained from John Potts. In 1824 the next lot, No. 90, was purchased, and in 1846 No. 91 was added by purchase.

The Pottstown Cemetery, which now fronts both on York and Charlotte streets, was incorporated November, 1854, and was made up of tracts of land purchased from time to time. The ground is owned jointly by Trinity Reformed, Emanuel Lutheran, and the Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration. Geo. B. Lessig, Esq., is President of the Company, A. G. Saylor, Secretary, and George N. Malsberger, Treasurer.

The old Mintzer (Malsberger) burial ground was situated on the southeast corner of Evans street and Lincoln avenue. It contained a number of dead, mostly of the Malsberger and Mintzer families. But the dead have been removed, the ground has been disposed of for building purposes, and the proceeds distributed among the heirs of the original owners. Even the Sprogel burial ground, the oldest in the borough, is about to disappear. The remaining dead, about forty, and among these

the ashes of the founder and donor—John Henry Sprogel—are to be removed and the ground sold.

Edgewood Cemetery is situated in the eastern part of the borough, on High street. The company was incorporated August 21, 1866. H. P. Leaf is President of the company, and George Evans Secretary and Treasurer.

Mount Zion Cemetery was incorporated November 10, 1873, and is located on the opposite side of the Schuylkill, and contains about forty acres. Robert J. Baldwin is President of the company, John A. Bunting Secretary, and H. P. Dampman Treasurer.

SCHOOLS.

The first school house built in Pottsgrove stood at the southeast corner of Penn and Walnut streets. It was built about 120 years ago by the Lutheran congregation, and was a "pay" or subscription school.

The Pottstown Academy was a literary institution of note in Pottstown. It was built in 1834, on Chestnut street, on the site now occupied by the Jefferson public school. It was the High School of Pottstown in its day. The building was frequently used for public meetings. It was torn down in 1873 to make room for the present public school building.

The public schools of our borough, within the ten wards, at present number 65. There are 22 school buildings, in which 71 teachers are employed. The library in the High School contains 3000 volumes. The School Savings Fund for 1904-05 amounted to \$8527. Besides the library there is a telescope and a valuable collection of minerals, &c.

THE HILL SCHOOL.

During the years 1793 to 1795 David Potts, son of Samuel Potts, erected a large stone mansion on the Hill, east of Pottsgrove, and which is now owned by the Hill School. The present flourishing Hill School was established by the Rev. Dr. M. Meigs, in 1852, and is now conducted under the principalship of John Meigs, Ph. D., supported by an efficient corps of teachers. This school has a national reputation, and it is sec-

ond to none in the United States. It is the pride of Pottstown.

INCORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH.

Pottstown was incorporated by an act of Assembly passed Feb. 6, 1815. Since that date the boundaries have been extended. The first borough election was held the first Tuesday of April, 1815. At that election Robert McClintock was chosen Burgess, and John Hiester, Jacob Leshner, Jesse Ives, Henry Boyer, William Mintzer and Thomas P. May were elected Councilmen. Unfortunately the minutes of Council from 1815 to July, 1819, are missing. The minutes of Council from 1821-1822 have also disappeared. The following record, gathered from official sources, gives the names and terms of service of the Burgesses up to the present (1905):

1815, Robert McClintock; 1816-19, not known; 1820-21, Jacob Hubley; 1822, not known; 1823, Jacob Leshner; 1824-25, William Mintzer; 1826, Augustus C. Rutze; 1827, Joseph McKean Potts; 1828, William Mintzer; 1829, John Thompson; 1830, Andrew Eckert; 1831, Jesse Ives; 1832-34, Jesse Kline; 1835-36, William Minzer; 1837, George Richards; 1838, Henry Potts; 1839, Jonas Smith; 1840-43, John Thompson; 1844-56, John S. Weiler; 1847-48, Aaron L. Custer; 1849, John Thompson; 1850-52, John C. Smith; 1853, Leshner VanBuskirk; 1854, D. M. Root; 1855, Hiram C. Feger; 1856, William Ellis; 1857, Lewis H. Davis; 1858, Ephraim Hartranft; 1859, Joseph E. Yeager; 1860, Hiram C. Feger; 1861-62, Samuel S. Daub; 1863, David P. Crosby; 1864-68, John A. Andre; 1869-71, Joseph E. Yeager; 1872, Alexander Malsberger; 1873, Louis B. Byar; 1874, Isaac Hoyer; 1875-76, M. S. Longaker; 1877-79, Henry G. Kulp; 1880, Dr. J. H. Scheetz; 1881-82, George B. Lessig; 1883-85, William P. Bach; 1886-88, W. S. Royer; 1888-90, Dr. John Todd; 1890-91, C. Q. Guldin; 1891-93, Jesse W. Evans; 1893-95, Dr. W. H. Eck; 1895-99, R. R. Davidheiser; 1899-1902, Horace A. Custer; 1902-05, Dr. J. Elmer Porter, the present Burgess.

INDUSTRIES.

Pottstown has been steadily growing. In 1830 there were 676 inhabitants. In 1840, 721; in 1850, 1664; in 1860, 2380; in 1870, 4125; in 1880, 5395; in 1900, 13,696; in 1905, 14,000. The assessment for 1905 returns 3825 taxables, holding \$6,107,975 of taxable property in the ten wards.

This has become quite an important manufacturing town. Among the industries are the following:

Iron Works and Foundries.	No. of Men Employed.
Glasgow Iron Company	1000
Warwick Iron and Steel Company..	350
George B. Lessig Company	450
Potts Bros. Iron Company, Ltd.....	200
Schuylkill Bridge Company	165
Sotter Bros., Inc., Boiler Works....	60
McClintic-Marshall Construction Co..	600
Stanley G. Flagg & Company	500
Pottstown Machine Company	45
Light Mfg. and Foundry Company..	150
March-Brownback Stove Company..	125
Keystone Foundry Company	25
E Guest & Sons (Foundry).....	
Schuylkill Valley Bridge Works	
The Ellis Keystone Agricultural Works	80
Hosiery and Shirt Factories.	
Champion Silk Company	
Becker Silk Company	
R. Morgan Root (Shirt Factory)....	
Pottstown Hosiery Company	50
Manatawny Knitting Company	
Searles Knitting Company	120
Meyerhoff, Son & Company	150
S. Liebovitz & Sons	150
L. A. Owens Military Mfg. Co.....	30
Gem Shirt Company	
Cigar Factories.	
Parkham & Duff	15
Shively, Miller & Company	
Haney & Company	
Roesch Bros.....	
Valentine & Sons	75

SUNDRY.

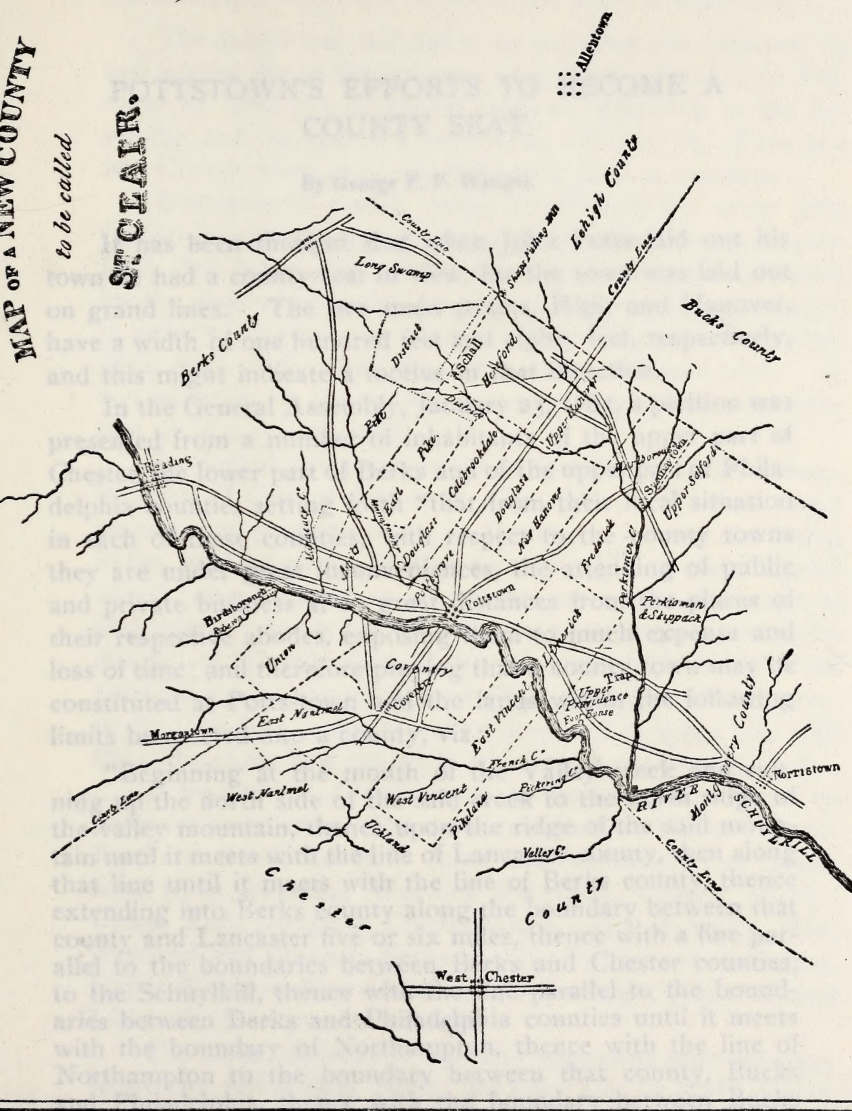
Pottstown Light, Heat and Power Company, Pottstown Gas Company, Pottstown Cold Storage and Ice Company, Pottstown Planing Mill, Pottstown and Reading Street Railway Company, Ringing Rocks Electric Railway Company, Schuylkill Valley Trolley Line, Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, Colebrookdale Railroad Company, Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Pottstown Creamery, Pottstown Dyeing Company, Pottstown Brewing Company, Burdan's Dew Drop and Ice Cream Factory, Eureka Steam Laundry, Peerless Steam Laundry, two flour mills, four banks, one trust company, 3 fire companies, doubly equipped; first-class fire system.

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, at Pottstown,
October 10, 1905.]

MAP OF A NEW COUNTY

to be called

ST. CLAIR.



COPY OF MAP OF ABOUT 1835.

53 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

and Philadelphia until it intersects the great road leading from Philadelphia to Bethlehem, thence southwesterly to the head of Skipack creek, thence with the main branch of Skipack to the mouth thereof, thence with Ferguanaug creek to the Schoylkill, and from thence to the place of beginning."

The matter was referred to a committee and pensions for

POTTSTOWN'S EFFORTS TO BECOME A COUNTY SEAT.

By George F. P. Wanger.

It has been thought that when John Potts laid out his town he had a county-seat in view, for the town was laid out on grand lines. The two main streets, High and Hanover, have a width of one hundred feet and eighty feet, respectively, and this might indicate a motive in that direction.

In the General Assembly, January 23, 1783, a petition was presented from a number of inhabitants of the upper part of Chester, the lower part of Berks and of the upper part of Philadelphia counties setting forth "that from their local situation in each of these counties, with respect to the county towns they are under great inconveniences, the attending of public and private business at so great distances from the places of their respective abodes, exposing them to much expense and loss of time; and therefore praying that a county town may be constituted at Potts-town and the lands within the following limits be erected into a county, viz:

"Beginning at the mouth of the Valley creek and running up the north side of the said creek to the north ridge of the valley mountain, thence upon the ridge of the said mountain until it meets with the line of Lancaster county, then along that line until it meets with the line of Berks county, thence extending into Berks county along the boundary between that county and Lancaster five or six miles, thence with a line parallel to the boundaries between Berks and Chester counties, to the Schuylkill, thence with the line parallel to the boundaries between Berks and Philadelphia counties until it meets with the boundary of Northampton, thence with the line of Northampton to the boundary between that county, Bucks and Philadelphia, thence with the boundary between Bucks

and Philadelphia until it intersects the great road leading from Philadelphia to Bethlehem, thence southwesterly to the head of Skippack creek, thence with the main branch of Skippack to the mouth thereof, thence with Perquioning creek to the Schuylkill, and from thence to the place of beginning."

The matter was referred to a committee and petitions for and against the movement were considered. Finally, on February 17, 1784, the committee reported negatively to the Assembly, and the yeas and nays being called by Mr. Potts and Mr. Clymer were 47 in the affirmative and 12 negative.

Montgomery county being established the same year (1784) Pottstown's advocates seem to have remained quiet until 1798, when petitions were presented to the Legislature for the division of Berks, Chester and Montgomery counties, in order to create a new county. This was repeated in 1805, 1814, 1834, 1837, 1838, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848 and later. In fact agitation on the subject was kept up until the Constitution of 1874 was adopted.

Its earliest advocates proposed to call it St. Clair county, in honor of General Arthur St. Clair, who at one time was a resident and property owner in Pottstown, owning and living in the building on the Southeast corner of High and Hanover streets, now occupied as a hardware store, and as he was at that time a member and president of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation of the Colonies which preceded the Constitution, he was the highest official in the nation and practically President, it was therefore proposed to honor him with the name of the new county in which his home was located.

A map of "St. Clair" county in my possession shows its proposed boundaries. The area includes East Vincent, North, East and South Coventry (then one township), East Nantmeal (then including Warwick township), Chester county; Union, Earl, Douglass, Colebrookdale, parts of Amity, Pike, Hereford and District, Berks county; Pottsgrove, Douglass, Upper Hanover, New Hanover, Marlborough, Frederick and Limerick, Montgomery county.

The name Manatawny was also suggested from the beautiful stream which rises among the Oley hills of Berks county

and joins the Schuylkill river here ; the names of Lawrence and Jackson are said to have also been considered.

Funds were asked to defray the expenses of passing the bill to erect this county in 1837-38, and the contributors were George Van Buskirk, Joshua B. Missimer, John Boyer, David Darer, Charles Rutter, Philip Boyer, Daniel Gilbert, William F. Graeff, Jonas Smith, John H. Hobart, Henry Geist, George Evans, Abraham Wanger, David M. Fort, Jacob Leshner, Charles H. Clay, John Thompson, Richard Casselberry, Jacob Missimer, Robert Powell, Isaac Smith, Henry Mintzer, John Ruth, Nathaniel Brooke, William Price, David Rutter, Charles Rittenhouse, George Richards, William Mintzer, Jesse Ives, Robert E. Hobart, Nathaniel P. Hobart, Charles H. Fritz, Charles F. Rapp, George Malsberger, Samuel Hockley, Barned Weand, Nathan Weiser, James Wells, Henry Potts.

The following circular was prepared as a result of a public meeting held to forward the movement : .

Pottstown, December 29, 1837.

Sir : At a meeting of the citizens of Pottstown and vicinity, the undersigned were appointed a committee to draft a circular to the members of the Legislature, respectfully calling their attention to an application now pending before them for the establishment of a new county out of parts of Berks, Chester and Montgomery.

In the discharge of this duty the committee will first premise that the establishment of a New County as aforesaid, is no recent project conceived by a few and advocated only with a view to their own interests. So far from *that*, it was agitated even as far back as about the close of the revolutionary war, nor have the people within the limits lost sight of it from that time. On the contrary it has ever been deemed by them a grand *desideratum*, and they have accordingly on several occasions heretofore petitioned the Legislature. It is true they have not succeeded in their object ; but that has been owing as this committee believes, not to any want of just claims on their part, but to the fact that those claims have never been properly represented and sustained.

This committee will proceed very briefly to state to you the grounds upon which the petitioners predicate their claims.

These are—the extent of their population—their resources—the amount of business transactions done by them, and the inconveniences and expense to which they are subjected in their frequent visits to and from their respective county seats.

1st. *With regard to population.* The proposed county would embrace within its limits about 25,000 inhabitants. By reference to the census of the State it will be found that this exceeds the amount of population in thirty of the counties and falls below twenty-four; being in this point of view considerably above the medium size. It will also be found by a reference to the records of the State that but six counties have ever been incorporated with a greater amount of population. The committee will further remark while upon this subject that notwithstanding a New County of this size may be carved out of Berks, Chester and Montgomery, it will still leave these latter counties ranking amongst the largest in the State.

2d. *With regard to resources.* Few counties of the State of the same extent would exceed it in regard to the richness of its resources, either present or prospective. The Schuylkill passes through the centre of it; and it embraces some of the richest and most productive lands along that river. Various other highly cultivated districts may also be found within its limits. But there are also other resources besides agricultural in which it may boast of a pre-eminence. It is intersected by various *ridges* which to the eye of the superficial observer might seem an evidence of sterility. Such though is not the fact. These ridges bear upon their surface forests already highly valuable and every day becoming more so—while they contain within their bowels mineral resources which when properly developed must not only enrich their neighborhoods, but add largely to the general wealth. As a further illustration of this subject the committee beg leave to annex the following statistical view. There are within its limits 4 blast furnaces, 9 forges, 2 cupolas, 6 tilt hammers, 9 merchant mills, 48 country mills, 27 oil mills, 13 powder mills, 50 saw mills, 2 paper mills, 11 clover mills, 20 tanneries, 6 woolen factories, 70 stores, 12 coal and lumber yards.

These statistics have been compiled from the best sources within our reach, and they furnish the most correct data upon which an estimate may be made of the resources of the proposed county. Having submitted them to your view, the committee will forbear to say anything more upon the subject.

3d. *With regard to the amount of business transactions, etc.* That these are very considerable may readily be inferred—not only from the extent of population, but more especially from

the diversity of pursuits in which that population is engaged. Here may be seen the farmer, the mechanic, the iron master, the powder-maker, etc., etc., all pursuing their different avocations, and daily interchanging the varied products of their industry. This state of things must necessarily give rise to a large amount of trade and to a vast variety of business transactions. These business transactions must render necessary on the part of the petitioners frequent visits to and from their respective county seats; and hence it becomes a matter of the highest import to them to have *these* within a convenient distance. That the petitioners are subjected to much inconvenience and expense on this account, will plainly appear, when it is stated that a very large portion of them reside at a distance of from twenty to twenty-five, and in some cases more than thirty miles from their respective county seats. Having made this statement of facts, the committee will content itself without any attempt to dilate upon them.

With regard to the seat of justice for the proposed county, this committee believes there can be little doubt that Pottstown is the most eligible place that could be selected. It is situated on the Schuylkill about half-way between Reading and Norristown, and is as central as any could desire it—while it possesses great advantages over any place in having all the facilities afforded by the Reading and Perkiomen turnpike, and by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, which pass immediately through, and the Schuylkill canal, which passes within less than a quarter of a mile of it. The trade between it and the country for ten or twelve miles around is now very considerable, and is every day extending itself, while its position on the railroad, the main depot of which between Reading and Philadelphia is located here, together with the other advantages it possesses holds out the prospect of its one day rising into a place of no mean importance.

Thus have the committee stated to you in as brief terms as the nature of the subject would admit some of the grounds at least upon which the petitioners base their claims. In conclusion they beg leave to remark that they themselves in common with the rest of the petitioners feel a deep interest in the accomplishment of the object; but much as their own interest and convenience are involved, they would not ask it at your hands were they not satisfied that while no one could have any

just right to complain the measure itself would be one highly conducive to the general prosperity.

Yours respectfully,

Geo. Richards, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 G. Van Buskirk, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 Robert E. Hobart, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 Henry Potts, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 William Mintzer, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 Joshua B. Missimer, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 Robert D. Powell, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 D. M. Fort, Pottstown, Montg. Co.
 H. Schneider, N. Hanover, Montg. Co.
 Jonas Smith, N. Hanover, Montg. Co.
 Henry Kreps, N. Hanover, Montg. Co.
 David Hartranft, N. Hanover, Montg. Co.
 Wendall Weand, N. Hanover, Montg. Co.
 John Hartranft, Sumneytown.
 Geo. Evans, Coventry township, Chester Co.
 William Price, Coventry township, Chester Co.
 Geo. Baugh, Coventry township, Chester Co.
 John Baugh, Jr., Coventry township, Chester Co.
 Jesse Grubb, Coventry township, Chester Co.
 Samuel Willauer, Coventry township, Chester Co.
 Owen Stover, Coventry township, Chester Co.
 James Wells, Coventry township, Chester Co.
 W. W. Weaver, Colebrookdale, Berks Co.
 Christian Shaner, Colebrookdale, Berks Co.
 David Gresh, Douglass, Berks Co.
 Henry Keely, Douglass, Berks Co.
 Jacob Weaver, Amity, Berks Co.
 Fred'k Brendlinger, Douglass, Montg. Co.

The new county movement was a factor in the politics of the upper end of Montgomery county, and in 1847 John S. Weiler, a Pottstown man, was elected to the Legislature on this issue.

About this time they proposed to call the county Madison, a name which soon became popular, and Pottstown had a Madison Fire Engine, a company of Madison Guards, Madison Lodge of Odd Fellows, Madison bridge and Madison street. The village across the river, now Kenilworth post office, was then named Madisonville.

Early in 1848 a petition signed by 166 taxables (a ma-

REFEREN

County Line

Township

County R

Turnpikes

M A P

of proposed

ISON COUNTY

Containing parts of

MONTGOMERY, BERKS & CHESTER

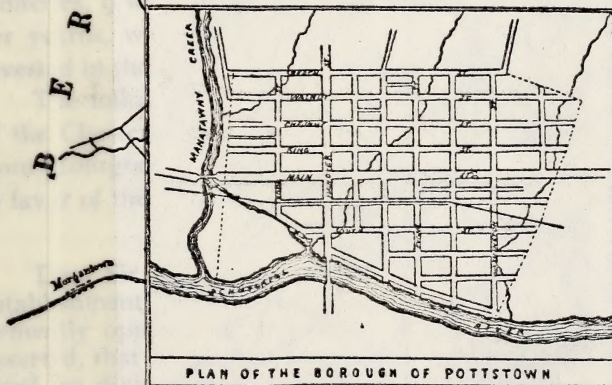
COUNTIES.

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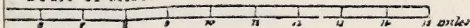


STATISTICS.

Parts of	Area Acres	Population.
<i>Montgomery</i>	80, 537.	12, 764.
<i>Berks</i>	52, 378	8, 217.
<i>Chester</i>	41, 080	6, 801.
Total Madison	173, 995	27, 782



Scale of Miles



REFERENCES.

- County Lines
- Township Lines
- County Roads,
- Turnpikes.

MAP

of proposed

MADISON COUNTY

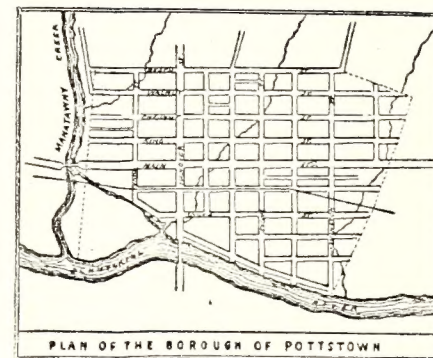
Containing parts of
MONTGOMERY, BERKS & CHESTER

COUNTIES.

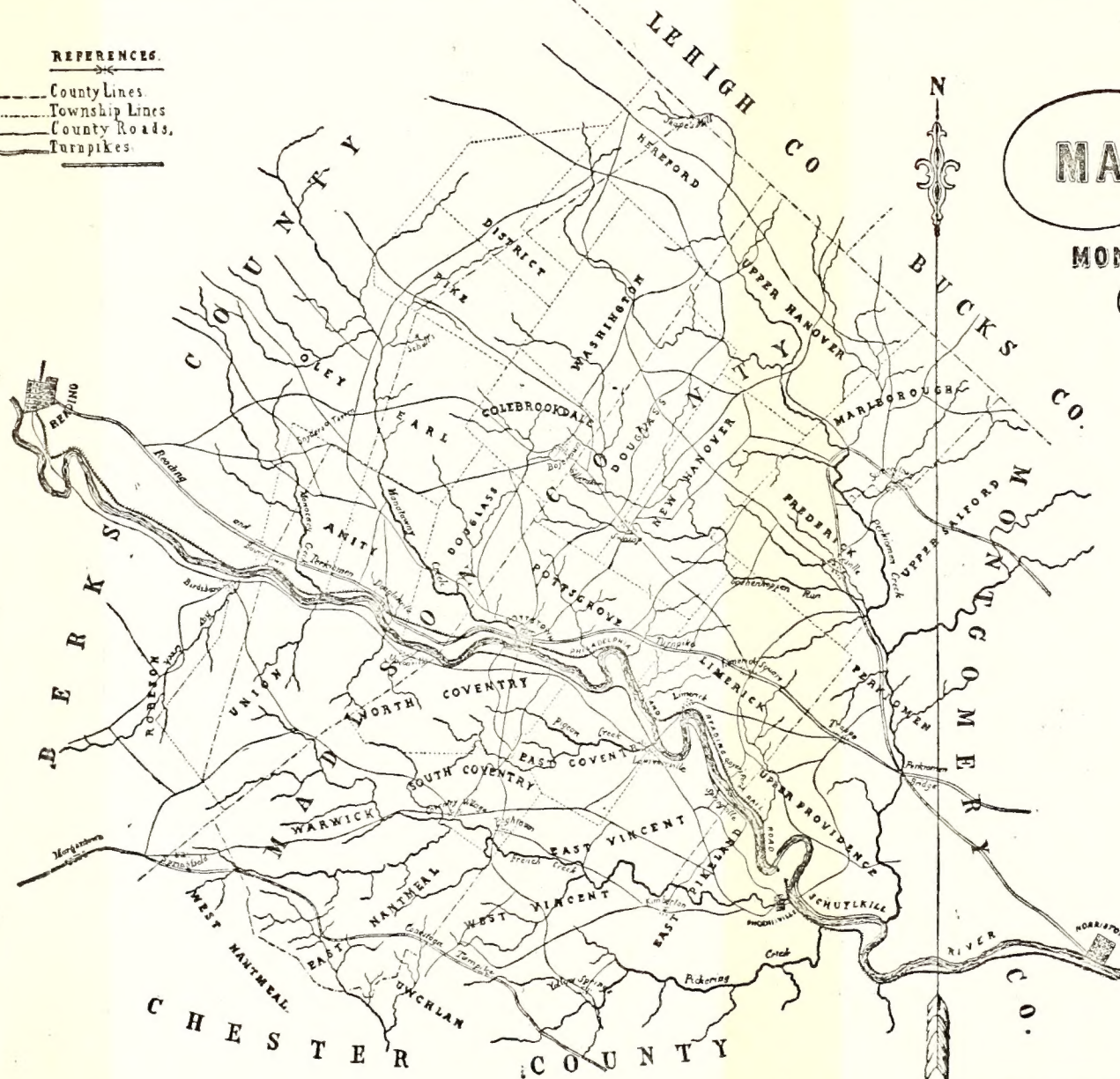
1853.

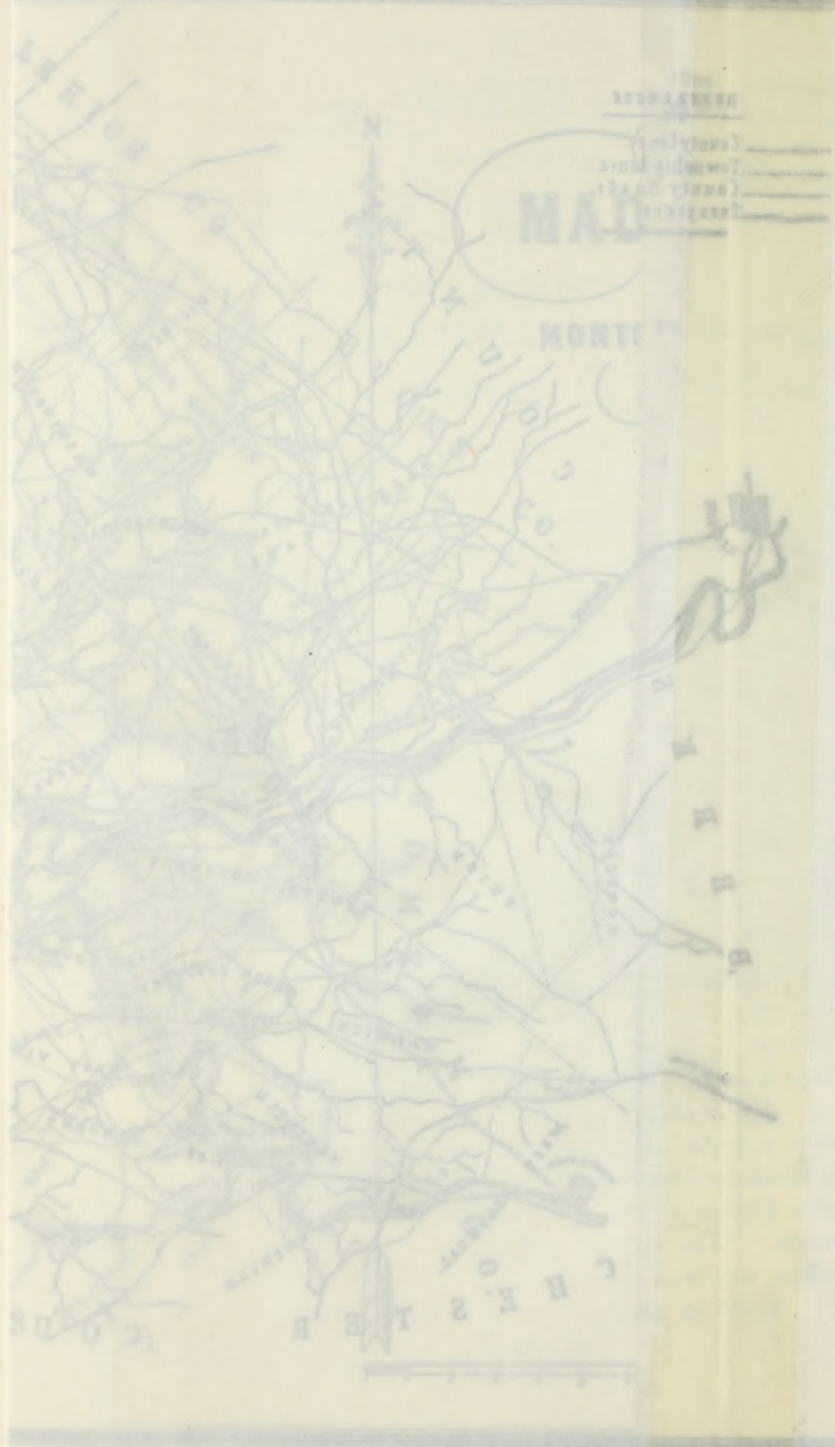
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Scale of Miles





jority of all there were in the borough at that time) was presented to Town Council, asking that body to pledge the credit of the borough for \$10,000 toward building a court house in case the county should be granted, and an examination of the proceedings of Council show that on November 15, 1837, Council passed such an ordinance, and re-enacted the same December 2, 1845, and November 9, 1846.

In 1848 Mr. George Richards, representing Montgomery county in the Senate, in a speech before that body, gave the following statistics:

Parts of	Pop. 1840.	Area acres.
Berks	8,497	100,000
Montgomery	10,201	80,000
Chester	5,986	40,000
	<hr/> 24,684	<hr/> 220,000

The taxables in the new county are 5000; amount of State tax assessed within its limits \$24,631.08; valuation of real and personal estate \$8,210,360, and among its industries 4 blast furnaces, 12 forges, 4 cupolas, 6 tilt hammers, 2 large rolling mills, 12 merchant mills, 55 country mills, 11 clover mills, 20 tanneries, 9 woolen factories, 80 stores and 15 coal and lumber yards, with a capital (estimated from the best sources) invested in these operations of two million dollars.

The following letter from Owen Stover, Esq., a member of the Chester county bar, to George Richards, then Senator from Montgomery county, shows the feeling in Chester county in favor of the new county movement:

N. Coventry, Chester Co., Jan. 24, 1847.

Dear Sir: There is a rumor afloat in this vicinity that the establishment of the new county, Madison, was not only vehemently opposed by our Senator, but that he had likewise asserted, that so far as Chester was concerned, the people desired no division and that the whole movement in its favor was only the work of speculators. As you have some knowledge of the people in the northern parts of Chester, of their high regard to the dictates of honor and truth, you may well imagine that an imputation so unjust produced a deep sensation. Some of us, however, are unwilling to credit the report:

we cannot believe, at least upon such authority, that our Senator could so far forget the dignity of his station as to make an assertion which was not only not true, but which, so far as Chester is concerned, has not even the semblance of truth. There are none in Chester that hold lots in Pottstown or own any soil on the Montgomery side of the river Schuylkill that they might speculate upon. The farms they own in Chester they hold for agriculture, for the honest bona fide purposes of an honorable life, and few, if any, have even a distant hope to part with them in the spirit of speculation. But why talk of speculators and search for the real sentiments of the people? Have not the people asked for it? Have not a majority of the voters in that part of Chester embraced within the contemplated bounds petitioned the Legislature for its establishment? Some friendly, residing in the locations inconvenient of approach, have not been called upon for their signatures, and many neutrals view it with favor. If the voice of all were expressed on the subject, that of 3-5 if not 2-3 of the voters would be heard in its favor. Why even in Warwick, the township most remote from the contemplated county seat, more than 2-3 of the voters have petitioned for it. The essentially republican voice demands it.

There are legislators who are sometime fearful of granting what even to them seems just from an apprehension that the case in question may become a precedent or precursor to others whose claims of justice they cannot recognize, or against which they entertain an especial opposition. Is this the dictate of justice? Surely not. Nor do the apprehended consequences necessarily follow. Each case is encompassed by its own individual circumstances, its own essential peculiarities, and where its claims are enforced by such an array of veritable facts as to vindicate and establish its justice and expediency, surely the admission of such a case is no convincing reason that others wanting the same enforcing facts should receive the sanction of the Legislature. The establishment of a new county with Pottstown as the seat of Justice rests upon the strongest and most substantial claims. No new county has ever been erected in this Commonwealth that presented such a combination of facts as to demonstrate its benefit and advantage to the population it was to contain, without harm or detriment to those counties from which it had been formed. None ever embraced so large a population; none left those from which it was formed with so large a population. Such a mass of wealth and established and extensive improvements. Nature herself seems to have designed by her physical

aspect and developments that the valley of the Schuylkill at the mouth of the Manatawny should be the centre of a thriving and flourishing county. The laws of trade, operating in a large and surrounding country, in all their multiplied forms, centre there. Roads and channels of communication emanate and diverge from thence of every variety and description. It is the focus and natural outlet to much agricultural and mineral wealth. Nature seems likewise, especially in Chester, to have severed a large population, from their existing county seat, by assuming at appropriate bounds an appearance at once hilly, rough and mountainous. They have thence a distance of eighteen to twenty miles; while they have no communication thither, by any course of trade or pursuits of life, save that only existing by their county relations. For widows, orphans, invalids and indeed for all, to travel over this distance, with rough and bad roads, through inclement weather drifts of snow, is a real and sometimes a most serious and insufferable hardship. The inhabitants in this section are, in a measure, deprived of the just advantages which civil institutions should afford them. Their extreme and distant position and the physical character of the county, as it were, disassociates and alienates them from their county fellow-citizens. The benign influence of that wisdom and intelligence which the progress of science and literature, of moral, civil and political light, develops and fosters by the ingatherings of many men, the interanimation and collision of man minds and a concentration of intellect, oversheds, in a greater or less degree, upon a county centre and its surrounding parts, does not reach them. The great highways, wanting bridge of a magnitude too great for township means, receive no proportionate benefit, from the common fund which is expended by more central improvement. The vox populi, the volition of the sovereign people, is not fairly expressed in the selection of candidate for their county function, or their public councils. The examination of county records, procuring letters of administration, letters testamentary and Orphan Court business, subjects them to continual hardships, loss of time and expenses. The Halls of Justice, crowded with the multitude of suitors, subject to vexatious delays, do not afford the facilities in the adjudication of their civil rights, which their establishment designs to guarantee. The wisdom and polity of an enlightened nation ever seek to bring justice home to every man's door, as near and free and facile as circumstances may render compatible. With this design the organization of civil institutions was formed upon this principle, all vested and acknowl-

edged rights, evolving out of the whole social compact, rest and have their conservation.

The legitimate opposition to our new county are not very active; the materials to bolster up a plausible case are unfortunately wanting. True, some, stimulated in their opposition by some sweet hopes of political aggrandizement, by ignorance, by peculiar views and associations, flutter for awhile; but their wings soon drop off and then they fall plumb upon the hard earth. Toil and artifice cannot procure signatures to the remonstrances of 1-3 of the number of voters, compared with that of the petitioners. But the illegitimate opposition, that beyond the contemplative bounds, is active and busy, as the evil genii just disencharmed from the depths below. Paper squibs are shot off in triumph from all points. Messengers and heralds have scoured the plain. I see remonstrances are falling fast and thick like bombs in the legislative halls. Suffer them to heap up remonstrance upon remonstrance until your tables groan in mercy. Let them pile Ossa upon Pelion, and Pelion upon Olympus! Cui Malo? Is it pertinent to the issue? Is it within the record? Do not enlightened, high-minded, honorable Senators know that there is always a busy swarm, the truly fruges consumers nati, hovering about the Seats of Justice and the highways of life, searching for the "almighty dollar," who can at any time raise an artificial thunder to intimidate those who would relax their grasp on the pockets of honest and toiling freemen.

My dear sir, the people in this section have a sincere conviction that their claims for a new county are honorable and just, and that it is essential to their welfare and prosperity. They look with hope to an enlightened Whig Legislature ever pursuing the high principles of equity and justice. They look with the profoundest interest to the distinguished members of the present Legislature whose high and honorable conduct and bearing they know for a kind, just and impartial consideration of their claims and petitions and feel a persuasion that, if it be in any way consistent with their conscientious views of justice, their solemn sense of duty and propriety, they will grant the subject of their prayers.

With great respect

I remain your obt. servt.,

Owen Stover.

To Geo. Richards, Esq.

Through the exertions of Mr. Richards the new county bill passed the Senate in 1849, but it failed in the House.

In the Legislature of 1854 General James Rittenhouse, then a member of the House, secured the passage of the act in that body, but it was defeated in the Senate.

The opposition to the county was strong in the other parts of Montgomery county, for in 1852 John C. Smith, a Democrat, and also a dyed-in-the-wool new county man, was defeated by a small majority by Benj. Frick for the State Senate. Mr. Frick was an anti-new county man, and though the county was strongly Democratic at that time the lower end people, nearly all of whom were opposed to losing the upper end of their county, supported Mr. Frick and elected him.

A map of "Madison County," made in 1855, shows within its boundaries North, East and South Coventries, East Vincent, East Nantmeal and Warwick, Chester county; Douglass, Colebrookdale, Washington, parts of Hereford, District, Earl and Amity, Berks county; Pottsgrove, Douglass, Upper Hanover, New Hanover, Marlborough, Frederick and Limerick, Montgomery county.

The area was

From	Acres.	Pop.
Montgomery	80,537	12,764
Berks	52,378	8,217
Chester	41,080	6,801
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Madison ...	173,995	27,782

This latter project the people were sure of. The square between King and Chestnut and Penn and Hanover was settled upon as the site for the court house, jail and other county buildings. This square was at that time an almost vacant lot.

In 1858 John Thompson, a pro new county man, was sent from Pottstown to the State Senate, but no good resulted to the friends of the project. In 1861 John C. Smith, of Pottstown, the great advocate of the measure, was elected Senator, but he accomplished nothing. Finally, in 1873, the Constitutional Convention put an end to the movement through the

efforts of at least one of the members of the Convention from Montgomery county, who was one of the authors, if not the author of Article XIII of the Constitution, which says:

“No new county shall be established which shall reduce any county to less than four hundred square miles, or to less than twenty thousand inhabitants; nor shall any county be formed of less area, or containing a less population; nor shall any line thereof pass within ten miles of the county seat of any county proposed to be divided.”

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, at Pottstown,
October 10, 1905.]

THE FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT, PA. VOLS., AT THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM.

By General William J. Bolton.

I have placed in Colonel D. M. Yost's show window, Main and DeKalb streets, Norristown, a photograph of the monument of the 51st Regiment, Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers, erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in commemoration of its services during the War of the Rebellion, 1861-65, which I have presented to the Historical Society of Montgomery County, and which in due time I have directed Colonel Yost to turn over to you. The monument is of granite, 17 feet 9 inches high, and is situated on Branch avenue, 365 yards south, 70 degrees east of the most advanced position held by the 51st, after storming bridge number three, on the afternoon and night of September 17, 1862. The bridge is now known in history as the Burnside Bridge. Branch avenue did not exist at the time of the battle, but the ground for it was acquired by the United States government since the war, and is named after General L. O.' B. Branch, of North Carolina, who commanded a brigade of North Carolina troops, and who was killed there on the day of the battle. Singularly enough we fought those same troops at Newbern, North Carolina. On the rear face of the monument is a bronze plate of the coat-of-arms of Pennsylvania, also a bronze plate in bas relief, 18 inches by 24 inches, of the 51st in the act of storming the bridge, a photograph of which accompanies the monument.

I will give you a brief history of the bridge and its surroundings. The bridge is a stone structure of three arches, with stone parapet above, this parapet to some extent flanking the approach to the bridge at either end. The valley in which the stream runs is quite narrow, the steep slope on the right bank approaching quite to the water's edge. On this slope

the roadway is scarped, running both ways from the bridge end, and passing to the higher land above by ascending through ravines above and below, the other ravine being some 600 yards above the bridge, the turn about half that distance below. On the hillside immediately above the bridge was a strong stone fence, running parallel to the stream. The turns of the roadway were covered by rifle-pits and breast-works, made of rails and stones, all of which defenses, as well as the woods which covered the slope, were filled with the enemy's infantry and sharpshooters. Besides the infantry defenses, batteries were placed to enfilade the bridge and all its approaches. The crest of the first hill above the bridge is curved toward the stream at the extremes, forming sort of a natural "tete-de-pont." The next ridge beyond rises somewhat higher, though with less regularity, the depression between the two being but slight, and the distance varying in places from 300 to 700 yards.

Three ineffectual attempts were made to take the bridge, and each was met with repulses. Finally General Ferrero appeared in front of the regiment, and in a strong voice that could be heard from right to left said: "General Burnside orders the 51st Pennsylvania to storm and take the bridge at all hazards." We knew too well its meaning. Having passed through the white heat of battle at Roanoke Island, Newbern, South Mills, Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, and a number of minor engagements, we were equal to the task.

Dismissing all detail, through a withering storm and incessant shower of shot, shell, grape and minies, the bridge was successfully carried, with a cost of 129 officers and men killed and wounded in the regiment in less than five minutes. Our flags were shot into ribbons, flag staffs broken and bullet ridden. I am proud to say it was a Montgomery county man who first reached the opposite side, Sergeant Wm. F. Thomas, of Co. C, who later on became the captain of his company. The regiment advanced to a high bluff about half a mile from the bridge, overlooking the village of Sharpsburg. Here it laid on the hill all that night and the next day; it had expended all of its ammunition, also that from the cartridge boxes of the

killed and wounded, when it was relieved by the 48th Pennsylvania. It did not leave the field, but remained in support of the 48th, depending solely on the bayonets. The troops that disputed our passage of the bridge were General Robert 'Toombs', of Longstreet's Corps; this is the same Toombs that boasted he would call the roll of his slaves from the foot of Bunker Hill. Burnside was heard to say: "I knew the 51st would take the bridge."

A few days before the battle General McClellan informed the authorities at Washington that 200,000 men would meet in combat at Antietam; if the 100,000 Confederates were divided by three, it would be much nearer the mark, the preponderance in numbers was largely in favor at least three to one to the Union commanders. He also reported that the Confederate loss was 30,000, when in fact it was not half that number. General A. O. Hill claims there were not more than 30,000 engaged in the battle. Longstreet is the authority for the statement that there was not more than 27,000 at the opening of the battle.

The battle was not resumed the next day, the 18th, by either party, and on the night of the 18th and 19th Lee quietly stole away, bag and baggage, with all the spoils of Harper's Ferry, leaving his dead and wounded on the field. The Union command claimed a victory. A victorious army is supposed to be in condition to pursue its defeated foe with advantage, and capture or do him serious injury, and should aim to secure the largest possible results from the least possible sacrifice of his own army. Possessed as he was of Lee's plan of battle, picked up at Frederick, he must have known that Lee had divided his army, always a hazardous movement, which should have been taken advantage of. Porter's Corps had not fired a hostile shot on the 17th, and Humphrey's division of fresh troops, numbering 7000 to 8000 men, arrived between six and seven o'clock on the morning of the 18th, making a reserve of from 20,000 to 25,000 men, and with the army who had fought the day before, willing and anxious to renew the combat, it can well be imagined what would have happened, if a more daring and aggressive commander, say Grant, Sherman or

Sheridan, had been in command. The Army of Northern Virginia would have met its Waterloo, the Army of the Potomac would have been free to operate elsewhere, and the battles of Fredericksburg and Gettysburg would never have been fought. The Army of the Potomac was never fought to any successful issue, not excepting Gettysburg, until Grant took charge of it.

In time of war timidity, overcautiousness, and the want of aggressiveness, is criminal. The battle of Antietam has been considered by both the contending armies to have been the bloodiest one-day battle of the war; the Union casualties 12,410 from all causes, the Confederate casualties admitted by themselves to be 14,000. Considering the enormous straggling of Lee's army, bitterly regretted by Lee and his subordinate commanders, who were not on the firing line, Longstreet and Hill were not far wrong in their estimate of their fighting strength, some of their regiments not numbering 100 men.

The 51st Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was mustered into the United States service at Harrisburg, November 16, 1861, and on the same day left for the front, and stayed there to the finish. With pardonable pride, I can say that I enlisted the first man for the regiment, and marched the first organized body of troops for the three years' service from Montgomery county, from my recruiting camp on what is now Jacoby street, east of DeKalb, on September 11, 1861.

Of the original field, staff and non-commissioned staff none are living. Of those who succeeded the original field and staff there are two, Major Hart and myself, still living. Of the ten original Captains, I am the only one living. Out of the twenty Lieutenants none are living. Of the ten companies, I will cite my old company (A) of 101 officers and men, I can count just fourteen living to-day, counting myself; and it may be judged what the mortality has been in the other nine companies.

A short history of the 51st and its wandering will not be inappropriate here. We left Harrisburg 1027 strong, officers and men. During its term of service it bore on its rolls 2092 men, made up of recruits, drafted men and substitutes. Its

total casualties from all causes were 1394. It served in the Department of North Carolina, otherwise known as the Burnside Coast Division, Army of Virginia, Army of the Potomac 1862, Department of Virginia, Army of the Ohio, Military Division of the Mississippi, Sherman's Expeditionary Army, Military Division of the Tennessee, Army of the Potomac 1864-65, and the Middle Military Division.

It traversed the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, the Pamlico, Croatan, Gurrutuck and Albemarle Sounds, the Severn, Potomac, James, Neuce, Ohio, Mississippi and Yazoo rivers, trod and passed through the States of Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, and by marches, rail and water, covered 10,430 miles during its term of service. It was the only regiment in the Ninth Army Corps, the wandering corps of the army,—a corps as an independent command, that never lost a battle or a gun,—that participated in all the battles of the corps.

It shed its first blood at Roanoke Island, and its last in front of Petersburg. It was the first regiment to plant its colors on the Confederate works at Newbern. It was the second regiment to enter and place its flag on the capitol at Jackson, Mississippi.

It unfortunately furnished prisoners for the prison pens of Andersonville, Salisburg, Beaufort, Florence, Belle Isle and Libby.

It was under a state of siege with the Ninth Army Corps at Knoxville for nineteen days, subsisting on corn meal and molasses.

It re-enlisted at Blain's Cross Roads, East Tennessee, for three years, or for the war, and on January 18, 1864, under my command, Colonels Hartranft and Schall being absent on leave, with two ears of corn on the cob, two hardtack and one day's ration of coffee per man, poorly clad, almost shoeless, many wearing rawhide moccasins, in a blinding snow storm with four inches of snow on the ground, scaled the Wild Cat, Cumberland and Log Mountains. It forded the Clinch, Big Rockcastle, Cumberland, Tennessee, and Little Rockcastle

rivers, and after a march of 191 miles, lasting eight days, finally reached Camp Nelson, Kentucky.

Its dead are buried in almost every State it passed through.

It participated in fifty-three battles and minor engagements.

During its entire term of service it never fought behind breast-works, but always in open field.

It had two stands of colors captured at Spottsylvania Court House.

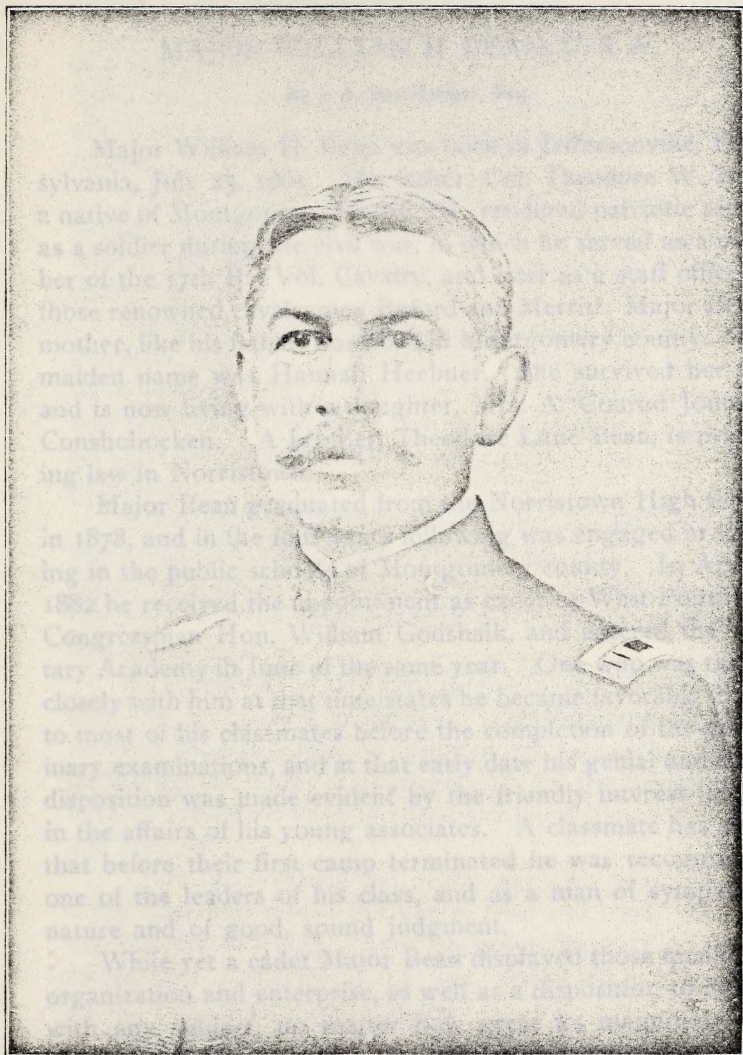
In the Grand Review at Washington on May 23, 1865, there were 75,000 men in line—the 51st paraded with 23 officers, 617 men, and nine battle flags.

It has in the flag room at Harrisburg eight flags, five more than any other regiment in the State.

It was mustered out of the United States service at Alexandria, Va., July 27, 1865, having served a term of nearly four years. The Montgomery county contingent, what was left of them, arrived home August 2, 1865.

Forty years have passed and as I recall the incidents of that time I am thoroughly in accord with General Sherman's definition of war: "War is hell."

[Read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County, at Norristown,
October 25, 1905.]



MAJOR WILLIAM H. BEAN, U. S. A.

MAJOR WILLIAM H. BEAN, U. S. A.

By J. A. Strassburger, Esq.

Major William H. Bean was born in Jeffersonville, Pennsylvania, July 25, 1861. His father, Col. Theodore W. Bean, a native of Montgomery county, Pa., rendered patriotic service as a soldier during the civil war, in which he served as a member of the 17th Pa. Vol. Cavalry, and later as a staff officer to those renowned cavalrymen Buford and Merritt. Major Bean's mother, like his father, was born in Montgomery county. Her maiden name was Hannah Heebner. She survived her son, and is now living with a daughter, Mrs. A. Conrad Jones, of Conshohocken. A brother, Theodore Lane Bean, is practicing law in Norristown.

Major Bean graduated from the Norristown High School in 1878, and in the four years following was engaged in teaching in the public schools of Montgomery county. In April of 1882 he received the appointment as cadet to West Point from Congressman Hon. William Godshalk, and entered the Military Academy in June of the same year. One who was thrown closely with him at that time states he became favorably known to most of his classmates before the completion of the preliminary examinations, and at that early date his genial and kindly disposition was made evident by the friendly interest he took in the affairs of his young associates. A classmate has stated that before their first camp terminated he was recognized as one of the leaders of his class, and as a man of sympathetic nature and of good, sound judgment.

While yet a cadet Major Bean displayed those qualities of organization and enterprise, as well as a disposition to grapple with any subject, no matter how great its magnitude, that characterized his later life. As a cadet he organized the members of the corps in a united effort to bring about the repeal of the law prohibiting the appointment of additional second lieu-

tenants, and in these efforts he secured the co-operation of the superintendent of the Academy and the Military Committees of both Houses of Congress. Largely through his personal efforts a bill was passed authorizing such appointments.

The action taken secured to the government the services of a considerable number of trained officers for the war with Spain and the insurrection in the Philippines, who otherwise might have been permanently separated from the military profession.

As a boy his imagination had been captivated by tales of cavalry operations of the Civil War related to him by his father, and when he received his commission he chose the cavalry division.

He took up his duties as a cavalryman with the same enthusiasm that marked his efforts to assist his fellow-cadets while at the military academy. From the first he cultivated that pride in his regiment that is indicative of a soldierly nature and that does so much to advance the reputation of an organization.

Upon graduation from West Point, in 1886, Major Bean was assigned to the Second Cavalry, and remained with it until appointed Captain in the Subsistence Department, in 1900. His mission appointed to re-establish the line between the United States and Mexico.

As a dragoon he saw hard service in pursuing the Apaches over the arid plains of Arizona. During much of the time between 1892 and 1894 he commanded the cavalry escort and performed the duties of quartermaster for the Boundary Commission appointed to re-establish the line between this country and Mexico.

Upon the breaking out of the war with Spain he was ordered East, and served in Cuba in 1899 and 1900. In 1901 he was ordered to China. After his promotion as Captain in the Subsistence Department he was stationed in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Omaha.

Major Bean's thoughts as an officer had always turned in a marked degree to the proper subsistence of the soldier, and his studies in this direction were rewarded by an appointment

as Captain in the Subsistence Department, July 31, 1900. He was promoted to the office of Major in the same department July 21st, two years later.

It is a well-known fact that in his position as Chief Commissary of the Department Major Bean displayed those qualities of thoughtfulness, perseverance, and energy, that always merit success, and that he thoroughly clinched his reputation as a competent and accomplished officer of the Subsistence Department. He studied the subject of feeding the soldier from every point of view, and the interest and zeal he displayed therein were recognized, not only by his commanding general and fellow-staff officers, but by officers throughout the Department, and by many prominent civilians.

As Chief Commissary Officer of the Department of the Missouri he was called upon to make certain necessary arrangements for the subsistence of the troops concentrated for manœuvres at Fort Riley, Kansas, in October, 1903. With the intention of making the administration of his department at that encampment serve as a model in future field operations he labored with great energy, and succeeded in accomplishing highly satisfactory results.

In the fall of the year 1889 he entered upon the law course at the University of Pennsylvania. During that year and the year and a half following he was detailed on duty in Pennsylvania in connection with the National Guard of the State. He completed his law course in 1891. He had previously attended lectures on the same subject while stationed at the Presidio, in San Francisco, California. It was the habit of his life to keep his mind actively engaged in study, or preparation for some wider field of service. His great desire to do something for the good of mankind created within him a wish to be able to perform any duty that opportunity might throw in his way.

One who knew him thoroughly and whose judgment must be accepted in forming a proper conception of his character, states that his two most clearly marked traits were his intense desire to help other people, and his never changing loyalty to

a friend. Those who knew him intimately will accept this statement as absolutely correct.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County had its inception in a suggestion made by Major Bean to his father in 1882, that such a society ought to be organized, and to their united interest and efforts the society owes its origin. From boyhood he had a keen interest in local history and family genealogy, and this line of thought and investigation was of absorbing interest in his later life. Though his military service was far distant from his native State and county, he always had a keen interest in all that pertained to their development and activities. He was a close student of the history of his native county, and such was the natural retentiveness of his mind that he had gathered a store of valuable information on many matters of local history. Particularly was he interested in the Revolutionary period of our country's history, and at the time of his death had in preparation material bearing upon the history of this period, gathered from original sources and compiled with extreme care and exactness. His interest focalized on the movements of General Washington and his army in the time they were within the present limits of our county, and particularly in the months they were encamped at Valley Forge.

On October 20, 1897, Lieutenant Bean married Mary E., the daughter of Charles H. and Emily Stinson, of Norristown, Pennsylvania. Both parents were natives of Montgomery county. The mother's maiden name was Emily Freedley. Mr. Stinson, who died in 1899, was a graduate of Dickinson College. He studied law, served with distinction in the Legislature of his State, and was appointed Judge in Montgomery county in 1882. A daughter, Emily Stinson Bean, was born September 15, 1904.

Major Bean died in Omaha, Nebraska, March 17, 1904. His remains were brought to Norristown, Pa., and buried in Montgomery Cemetery.

Major Bean was a hard worker. He never hesitated to assume an additional burden if by so doing he could cheer or assist a brother officer. His nature was essentially optimistic.

No proposition, whatever its magnitude, was sufficient to cause him to falter in attempting a solution. He thought quickly, and was wont to express himself with that confidence and decisiveness that usually carries conviction. His personality was cheery and lovable to a marked degree, and his pronounced individuality was readily acknowledged by all with whom he was brought in contact. His friends always welcomed his approach, and, if in need, never failed to profit from his hearty good will and kindly desire to assist.

He had the most fervent love and devotion for those bound to him by family ties. The memory of a devoted father was ever sacred to him. His faithfulness to his family was the admiration of those who knew him, and of him could well be said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

The first building there was a log school house, built about 1748 or 1750. It was also used for religious worship. (See cut page 71.) It was burned down one night through leaving hot ashes in a bucket. It was replaced soon after by a stone house built in 1755. The second building stood until 1866, when the present stone structure was built. It is a little larger than the second one, and stands about 100 yards east of where that one was.

I remember the second building as far back as 1837. I was then six years old. During the winter school was kept in the adjoining school house there. It was my first school. I well remember the religious services there on Sundays. They were held in the morning, once in two weeks. In summer most of the people came to church barefoot. A few old women wore slippers without stockings. None of the men wore coats. All their clothing was loose open and home made. Few rode to church. Nearly all walked. They came along the roads and in single file on paths across the field, some coming three

THE TOWAMENSING MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE.

In response to the request for more information about the Towamensing Mennonite Meeting House and the grave yard adjoining it I send you the following:

The place was originally only a burying ground. The first tract of land, about a half acre, was willed by Jacob Godshalk for a burying ground for the "Mennonites or Baptists as well as to other denominations to bury their dead." Afterwards others gave or sold additional land for the same purpose. Eight tracts have been added to the original Godshalk tract. General Nash and the three other officers of the Continental Army were buried in the original Godshalk tract. The oldest dates visible on tombstones there are 1733, 1735 and that of Catharine Overholtzer, 1741.

The first building there was a log school house, built about 1748 or 1750. It was also used for religious worship. (See cut page 71.) It was burned down one night through leaving hot ashes in a bucket. It was replaced soon after by a stone house built in 1805. The second building stood until 1866, when the present stone structure was built. It is a little larger than the second one, and stands about 100 yards east of where that one was.

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miles or more. In each case the entire families always came together. There would be from fifty to one hundred present at the meeting. They arrived early and waited in the meeting house yard for the minister's arrival. Presently he would drive up in a white covered wagon. He lived about seven miles away. He had charge of three or four congregations, miles apart, and would preach to one or more of them each Sunday. When the minister arrived all would go into the meeting house and the service would be held. After the service all the men would come out into the yard again. The first remark would be, "Who can strike fire?" Then some one would get a fire from his flint, steel and punk and the men would light their pipes and cigars and smoke and have a general social talk. The cigars were made in the neighborhood and were sold for eighteen cents per 100.

The services were all in German. That is so still. Only on a few occasions are there any English services. The ministers are all chosen from the congregation by lot. They are not educated for the ministry. But after they are chosen as ministers they are expected to study some.

JOHN C. BOORSE,
Kulpsville, Pa.

September 4, 1905.

NATHANIEL MISSIMER ELLIS.

A brief Autobiography, dictated to his friend J. O. K. Roberts.

I was born February 25, 1819, on East High street, Pottstown, near Hubley's Run, in a house that has since disappeared, son of Christopher and Margaret nee Missimer Ellis, my father of English, my mother of German descent.

I was a pupil at the "Academy," William Stahley, principal and faculty. Among my fellow-students were the Hobarts, Van Buskirks, Lessigs, Rhodermals, Missimers, Potts, Eckerts, Mintzers, Rutters and others. An important personage to our happiness was a Guinea negress who lived in the neighborhood and supplied us with gingerbread and mosey—molasses candy. Her name was Jennie Pete.

In 1833, at the age of 14 years, I was engaged to serve in the Engineer Corps, at that time charged with the construction of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. Moncure Robinson was the consulting engineer, his nephew, Wirt Robinson, chief engineer, and M. C. Fairfax chief assistant engineer for the Western Division. All three gentlemen were Virginians. W. Hazel Wilson, engineer for the Eastern Division, was my immediate superior.

I continued in this service until 1837, when a station was established in Phoenixville, of which I was placed in charge as general agent, and I continued in that capacity until 1880, a total period of forty-seven years. And, as I have continued my residence in Phoenixville since, I have been a citizen of that town sixty-eight years.

In 1842 I married Miss Mary Morgan, of Phoenixville, and three children were born to us. We are alive to-day after more than sixty-three years of married companionship, our children also, and we all live together.

All the men with whom I was associated in the construction period of the Reading Railroad, and as subordinates in my

early Phoenixville days, and as well ten of the thirteen presidents of the company, are dead.

When the Phoenixville office was installed, an item of the equipment was a 3-inch pipe that conveyed water from a spring half a mile to a tank, from which for several years was drawn supplies for the locomotive boilers. Then the rails on the road bed were of English made iron, weighing forty-five pounds to the lineal yard. The locomotives also of English make weighed some eight tons, and managed by careful manipulation to pull two hundred tons. For many years there were but two passenger trains down the road, week-days only, mornings and evenings, and two upward bound.

Morse sent his first message by electricity from Baltimore to Washington in 1844, and in due course of time his invention was installed upon the line of the Reading system, then consisting of the main line only. I studied the code, and mastered the sending of messages practically without a teacher. I was not only the first operator in Phoenixville, but for a long time the only one.

So far as I am aware, not one of my school-fellows in this town is alive to-day; and, as you may well imagine, absence from it in years numbering sixty-eight, with my interests mainly centered in another place, spreads a pall over memory, so that people and things of Pottstown in the far off days of my youth are not as clear to me as I would like them to be for this occasion.

I remember that William Mintzer was the leading merchant, who was located on the south side of High street, east of Hanover street. On the same street and side, some distance further east, was the shop of Jesse Kline, a Hebrew. He commanded a company of soldiers in the War of 1812, of which my father was a member. My recollection is that the Kline property was subsequently altered for dwelling purposes, and then became the residence of ex-Congressman Jacob S. Yost, who at one period of his life was the publisher of a Pottstown newspaper, and whom I hold in grateful memory as my adviser and guardian. The late John Royer, who died in Phœ-

nixville more than thirty years ago, was the publisher of a newspaper in my Pottstown days. Daniel L. Glacken, also a printer, was a literary character, who wrote a history of the Roman empire, of which at one time I owned a copy.

I remember four hotels. One near the Manatawny was kept by John Scheetz, another by the Boyer Brothers, John and Henry, with which was connected a stage office. The third was at the southeast corner of High and Hanover streets, also a stage stand, the proprietor a Russian by the name of Ritze. At the East end was the Buttonwood House. All these hotels were on High street.

The only industries I have recollection of were a grist mill, near the Schuylkill river bridge, Jesse Ives, proprietor, and George Longabough the manager, a mill of the same character on the Manatawny west of the village, owned and managed by Henry Potts, and a tannery in which a Mr. Casselberry was a partner, if not the sole proprietor.

Andrew Eckert, a cigar manufacturer, and dealer in cigars, from whom one could buy a full Spanish cigar for a cent, two half-Spanish for the same sum, and the ordinary kind at eighteen cents per hundred, was the practical joker of the town.

An interesting figure of my early days in Pottstown was David Potts, Jr., of Warwick, Chester county, who came to town on horseback very frequently on business connected with the famed Warwick Furnace, which he successfully managed for near half a century. He was a member of the Legislature 1823-4-5, and of Congress eight years, 1831-9. His resting place was at Reitze's hotel.

As far back as I can well remember, at least eighty years ago, I saw in this town a Masonic parade on High street, then as now Pottstown's principal thoroughfare. As if it were yesterday I can see the craft in their regalias, some bearing banners, and four boys gayly arrayed carrying upon a stretcher an open Bible. Phoenix Lodge, No. 75, of Phoenixville, possesses a sword borne by Captain Thomas Church, an Irishman by birth, who served under Anthony Wayne throughout the Revolutionary War. Upon it is engraved the valuable information that in the year 1781 he withdrew from military

Lodge No. 8, of the Pennsylvania Line, and organized Lodge 31 at what is now Pottstown. Seventeen years later he resigned from No. 31 for the purpose of organizing Phoenix Lodge, No. 75, at Pughtown, Chester county, and was its first Master. In 1814 this lodge was removed to the General Pike Hotel, then in Charlestown township, and in the year 1847 to Phoenixville, where it still abides. Brother Church was buried in St. James' P. E. Cemetery, at Evansburg, Montgomery county.

As a citizen of Phoenixville I have served its people as Burgess, Councilman, School Director, Borough Engineer and bank director. I was an earnest advocate for borough chartering, which came about in 1849. I assisted in the reorganization of Phoenix Lodge, No. 75, A. Y. M., before referred to, in 1847, after its ten year period of desuetude caused by the anti-Masonic furore of those days. I was its first initiate, have had continuous membership since, the years numbering fifty-eight, and I am its senior member. Never an aspirant for preferment, I have remained a Master Mason, that and nothing more.

In 1858 I was honored by Governor William F. Packer by being appointed on his staff, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

I have only to add that in all my many years I have had excellent health, with the exception when young of having suffered from an attack of fever. And therefore it is that I can say with one who has gone before:

"Though I look old, yet I am strong and lusty;
For in my youth I never did apply
Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood;
Nor did I with unabashed forehead woo,
The means of weakness and debility;
Therefore my age is as a lusty winter,
Frosty, but kindly."

[Read at the meeting of the Historical Society at Pottstown, October 10, 1905.]

BATTLE OF THE CROOKED BILLET.

[General W. W. H. Davis, of Doylestown, Pa., read several years ago before a meeting of this Society at Hatboro, a paper upon the Battle of the Crooked Billet. His paper is published in Vol. II of the publications of this Society. Since then General Davis has received additional information concerning that battle. He has published this in a supplemental paper which is herewith given.]

Recently the undersigned received from his old friend, J. Warren Conard, of the War Department, Washington, D. C., some new information, touching the Battle of the Crooked Billet, fought May 1, 1778, while the British held possession of Philadelphia. Of this Mr. Conard writes as follows:

The following account of the battle, or massacre, of the Crooked Billet (now Hatboro) is from the published journal of Major (afterward Lieutenant Colonel) J. G. Simcoe, a British officer who commanded "The Queen's Rangers." The Rangers were American Tories. As the British are noted for their skill in getting other people to fight their battles, they made considerable use of the Rangers, who were very effective as advance guards, scouts and raiders. The battalion, when full, numbered about 360 men, a few of whom were huzzars (cavalry), the greater number being armed and drilled as infantry and taught to fire readily, never to march in slow time, and to rely mainly on the bayonet. Their uniform was green, and some ill feeling was caused by an attempt to make them wear the red coats of the British regulars.

John G. Simcoe was an English Captain in the 40th British Regiment and was wounded at Brandywine, and twice while in command of the Rangers. He is described as a good soldier and a courteous and humane gentleman. He became Lieutenant General in the British army and held other important positions, including that of Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, and the chief command of the British forces in India. He died in 1806. He was noted for his intense hatred of the Americans.

He writes, speaking of himself by his rank: "There were many reports that Mr. Lacey, the rebel General of the Pennsylvania Militia, was collecting them, professedly to impede the country people's intercourse with the markets. Major Simcoe, besides employing his own intelligence, applied to Lieutenant Colonel Balfour, who so successfully managed these matters during the army's being in Philadelphia, for what he could furnish him with; and represented that it would be of the utmost consequence to attack Lacey the moment he broke into the circle of country which we had hitherto maintained possession of. In consequence of this conversation, he was sent for by Colonel Balfour, some time afterward, and informed that Lacey's corps were to assemble at the Crooked Billet, twenty-five miles from Philadelphia. On the first of May, Major Simcoe was anxious they should be attacked on that night; and, from the maps of the country, arranged the plan which was approved of. The main road led past the Billet to Philadelphia from York*; at less than half a mile from it, on the Philadelphia side, there was another that led to Washington's Camp, by Horsham Meeting. Major Simcoe proposed that he should march with the Rangers, and, by a circuit, get to the road in the rear of the Billet; and that a detachment should march and ambuscade themselves in a wood, on the road which led by the Horsham Meeting-house to Washington's Camp; this party was to remain in ambuscade till they heard the firing of the Queen's Rangers. It was supposed that if the surprise should not be complete the ambuscade would render the success perfectly so, by supporting the Rangers if they were checked, and by intercepting the enemy if they attempted to retreat, which would probably be towards their army. Colonel Balfour proposed 200 light infantry to go; to this Major Simcoe said, 'that they would be commanded by older officers in the line and yet of inferior local rank with himself, and that it was his wish, on that account, to avoid giving umbrage.' The result was, Lieutenant Colonel Abercrombie was chosen and marched with a large detachment of light infantry and with one of cavalry and horses to mount

*Meaning New York City.

part of his infantry for greater expedition. Major Simcoe's march was a difficult one; he thought it necessary to make many circuits to avoid places where he suspected the enemy had posts of patrols. He was admirably guided; and, luckily, had information, about twilight, that prevented him from committing a serious error; the armed refugees, as Captain Thomas, their commander, informed him were sent by Mr. Galloway to convey in some of his furniture, they adventured out, hearing of the expedition by some means or other, and marched up the roads which the Rangers had so carefully avoided, but without meeting any interruption or alarm. Luckily they passed a house which Major Simcoe called at, or he would certainly have mistaken them for rebels; they were directed to keep themselves under cover; and the Rangers marched on as fast as possible. Although daylight appeared, Major Simcoe was under no apprehension of discovery, and certain of Colonel Abercrombie's having met with no accident, as the parties must have been within the hearing of each other's fire. He had now arrived at the point where he quitted the road in order to make his last circuit to reach the Billet, profiting by the covert that the irregularities of the ground would have afforded and was informing the officers of his plan of attack, to be guided by circumstances, Captain Kerr's division excepted, who was to force Lacey's quarters and barricade them for a point to rally at, in case of misadventure, when a few shots were heard. Major Simcoe immediately exclaimed, "The dragoons have discovered us"; so it was, Colonel Abercrombie, although assisted by horses, could not arrive at his post at the appointed time, before daybreak; anxious to support Major Simcoe, he detached his cavalry and mounted light infantry to the place of ambuscade. The officers who commanded patrolled to Lacey's outpost, and, being fired at by the rebel sentinels, did not retire; Lacey, of course, did, and, collecting his force, began a retreat up the country. In this situation, the Rangers arrived nearly in his rear, upon his right flank. They stopped and turned some smaller parties who were escaping from the light infantry, and who were killed, but the main body retreated in a mass, without order, and by no efforts could the

infantry reach them; unfortunately the Huzzars of the Rangers were left at Philadelphia, their horses having been fatigued by a long course of duty, and a severe patrol the day before; thirty dragoons, who were with the Rangers, were sent to intercept the baggage wagons, and said to guard them. As the enemy were marching through a wood Major Simcoe galloped up to the edge of it, and summoned them to surrender; they were in great consternation, but marched on; he then gave the word of command, 'make ready,' 'present,' 'fire,' hoping the intervening fence and thickets between him and them might lead them to suppose he had troops with him, and that they might halt, when a few moments would have been decisive; at the word 'fire' they crouched down, but still moved on, and soon got out of all reach. A few men of the Rangers were wounded, as was the horse of Wright, Major Simcoe's orderly Huzzar, and Captain McGill's shoe buckle probably saved the foot of that valuable officer. The enemy had fifty or sixty killed and taken. The troops returned to Philadelphia. The Commander-in-Chief ordered the baggage sold for their benefit; it produced a dollar a man. The guides of the Queen's Rangers computed their march at fifty-eight miles; not a man was missing. This excursion, though it failed in the greater part, had its full effect of intimidating the militia, as they never afterwards appeared, but in small parties and like robbers."

W. W. H. DAVIS.

GENERAL INDEX.

Prepared by E. J. Wanner.

A

Aaron, Rev. Samuel, 2.
 Abbott, William S., 334.
 Abercrombie, Lieut. Colonel, 397.
 Abington, Monthly Meeting, 96;
 Friends School, 95.
 Academy of Natural Sciences,
 The, 325.
 Acker, Dr. E. L., 2.
 Adams, John, 310; John B., 325.
 Aitkin Bible, Robert, 133.
 Allentown Road, 63.
 American Whigs, 309.
 Ames, William, 145.
 Anders, William H., Abraham,
 65; George H., 271.
 Andre—Major John, 338; Adjutant
 General, execution of, 338;
 Arrived at Philadelphia, 338;
 Prisoner of war, 338; at Lancaster,
 338; Lover of art, 338;
 at Carlisle, 339; letters, 340;
 exchanged, 340; at Crooked
 Hill Tavern, 340; on way to
 New York, 341; maps and
 charts, 342.
 Antes, Col. Frederick, 9, 18, 19,
 21, 23, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35; Lieut.
 William, 22, 27, 33; Henry, 31,
 131, 283; riding stone, 32.
 Antes (afterwards Bertolets')
 Mill, 11, 25, (now Grubbs).
 Antietam, Battle of, 381; bridge,
 381.
 Appeal for clothing and food, 22.
 Apple, John, chorister, 84.
 Appleton, Rev. E. W., 142.
 Armbruester, Gotthard, 133.
 Armstrong, Gen., 15, 120; John,
 180.
 Army Corps located, Washington's,
 24.
 Artillery Division, 21.
 Ashbourne in England and
 America, 144.
 Ashbourne, Presbyterian Church,
 148; pastors of, 149.
 Associated Brethren of the Skip-
 pack, 283.
 Astor Library, 229.
 Aubrey, Letitia, 321; William,
 321.

Audubon, John James, 222, 227,
 234, 241, 242, 243, 253, 254, 258,
 262, 263; Village of, 248, 263;
 Park, 240; History of, 265;
 "Minnie" Land, 240; postoffice,
 263; loss, 239; death, 241; married,
 237; water-birds, 227;
 Birds of America, 227; painter
 (Miss Martin), 227; Mrs. J. J.,
 228; Lucy Bakewell, 256; cave,
 236; misery, 262; "Story of My
 Youth," 234; works issued, 238;
 works commended, 239.
 Augustus Lutheran Church,
 Trappe, 89.

B

Bachman, Rev. Dr. John, 226;
 Mrs., 228; John and Eva, 226;
 Defense of Audubon, 228.
 Bachman, Michael, 19.
 Bakeoven, 27.
 Baker & Grady, 291.
 Bakewell, family, 253; Lucy, 237;
 William, 237, 253, 254, 268, 269;
 Thomas Woodhouse, 255; plan
 tation, description of, 254, 265;
 plot, 255; burying ground, 256;
 William Gifford, 255.
 Balfour, Lieut. Colonel, 397.
 Balligomingo, 320; "Balligo,"
 321.
 Bank of North America, 310, 315.
 Baptists, Seventh Day, 280.
 Barren (Beacon) Hill, 186.
 Barren Hill, 186.
 Bartholomew, Col. Edward, 258.
 Bartle, Bartley, Bertold, 39.
 Bassler, Rev. Henry S., 1.
 Battle, of Stillwater, (second),
 119; Brandywine, 9, 12; Ger-
 mantown, 17, 32, 37, 38; Tren-
 ton, 294; Chadd's Ford, 11;
 Crooked Bilet, 396.
 Baus, Christopher, 280.
 Beacon, (Barren) Hill, 186.
 Bean, Major William H., 233, 294,
 385; Col. Theodore W., 385;
 Theodore Lane, 385.
 Beatty, Capt. William, 42.
 Beaver, Hill, 16; Mountain, 17.
 Bechtel, John, 283.

Becker, Peter, 125; Jost, 283;
Rev. J. L., 35.
Beissel, John Conrad, 124, 130,
134, 135, 280; German books,
125, 130.
Benzel, George, 283.
Berkemeyer, Rev. F., 90.
Berkey, Rev. A., 83.
Berry's Corners, 328.
Bertolet, Benjamin, 9; Samuel,
farm, 11, 17, 23, 34; Abraham
R., 21; Daniel, 17, 25; John,
283; Mennonite Meeting, 11;
Mrs. Mary Ann, 21; Mennonite
burying ground, 39.
Bethlehem Hospital, 37.
Bird-in-Hand, 320, 323.
Birds of America, (Audubon's),
227, 239.
Birmingham Meeting House, 12.
Bishop, Major Jacob, 33.
Black Bear, 24.
Black Horse Tavern (Lower
Merion), 175.
Blum, Ludwig, 137.
Boehm, John Philip, 132; Re-
formed Church, 132.
Böhler, Peter, 286.
Bolton, Gen. William J., 291, 300;
Major Joseph, 292.
Bonn, John, 283; Jacob, 283.
Boorse, John C., 139.
Bosler's Mill, 145.
Bosler, Rev. Henry, 82.
Bossen, William, 283.
Bossert, Jacob, 116.
Bountytown, 144.
Boyd, Colonel, 70, 114, 120;
burial place of, 120.
Boyertown, 20, 347.
Brand, Philip, 20, 21.
Braun, Pastor, 226.
"Breakneck" Hill, 213.
Brethren of the Skippack, Asso-
ciated, 283.
Brethren or Dunkards, 69.
Brick, (Christ) Church, 71.
Bridge over Schuylkill at Fat-
land, 245.
Brief of Title Mill Grove Planta-
tion and Mill, 258.
Bringhurst, Wright A., 53.
British at Gulph Hills, 175.
Broad Axe, 174.
Brock, John, 147.
Brooke, Capt. Matthew, 31; John,
33; Capt. Benjamin, 33; John,
234; General John, 2.
Brown, Peter, 327.
Buck Tavern, 13, 263.
Buck, William J., 4.
Buck, William H., 345.
Bull, Col. John, 31.
Bullets revolutionary, found, 24,
246.

Bullock's Woolen Mills, 320.
Burgoyne, General, 119; surren-
der of, 120.
Burnside, General, 380; bridge,
379.
Burr, Col. Aaron, 184.
Burying Grounds, Delp's, Har-
leys', Fuhrman's, 161.
Buzby, John, 334.

C

Campaigns of Trenton, Brandy-
wine, Paoli, 32.
Campbell, Mary, 333; Capt., 339.
Camp Cadwallader, 218.
Camp Discharge, 206; officers and
men, 219.
Camp Perkiomen, 19, 23, 25, 30,
40, 43.
Camp Pottsgrove, 9, 19, 31; Con-
tinental Army at, 9; Washing-
ton's letter from, 12; hospital,
17.
Camp Spring Mill, 215.
Camp Towamensing, 114; dam-
ages at, 118; thanks of Con-
gress, 119.
Camptown, 106.
Canal, Schuylkill, 224.
"Canestock," 283.
Carr, Miss Rachael S., 147.
Carroll, Charles, 23.
Cassel, A. H., 123, 131.
Cassel, Jacob H., 118; Henry, 118.
Cassel, Joel, 117.
Chadd's Ford, battle of, 11.
Chalfont, 277.
Chandler, Joseph H., 327.
Chase, Samuel, 23.
Cheltenham, 94; Military Acad-
emy, 147; Chimes of, 153.
Chester County, 17.
Chester Valley Hill, 16.
Chew's House, 115.
Chief Justice, John Marshall, 294.
Childs, Captain, 33.
Chimes of Cheltenham, The, 153.
Christ (Brick) Church, 71, 81, 86,
116; Reformed Congregation,
81; Lutheran congregation, 85,
91, 92.
Chronicon Ephratense, 125.
Church farm, 28; road, 297.
Church, Lotteries, 65; Capt.
Thomas, 394; Mason, burial,
398.
City Tavern, 297.
Civil War Discharge Camp, 206.
Clay, Rev. Slater, 323.
Cleaver, William, 231, 333, 334.
Clemens' Mill, Garret, 68.
Clements, Rev. Samuel, D. D.,
109.
Cloud, Joe, 292; Ned, 292.

Cocalico, 282.
 "Coetus Minutes," 7.
 Cole, Rev. J. Thompson, 148.
 "College" Farm, 325.
 Collegeville, 47, 52.
 Collegiate Institute, The, 326.
 Collett, Tobias, 258.
 Collyer, Rev. Robert, 148.
 Colmar, 157.
 Colonial Great road, 15.
 Common School system.
 Conestoga, 278.
 Congress (Colonial), 23.
 Constables, William Richards.
 243; Robert Smith, 243.
 Continental Army, at Camp
 Pottsgrove, 9, 19.
 Continental Congress, 310.
 Cooch's Bridge, 294.
 Cooke, Jay, 109, 111, 147.
 Cook's Hill, 106.
 Cope, Caleb, 339; John, 339.
 Copper Mines, at Shannonville,
 222, 262; investors in, 225.
 Cornell, Ezekiel, 312.
 Corson, Dr. Hiram, 327.
 Council of War (Revolution), 173.
 Cowpath Road, 157.
 Cranberry Creek (the Perkio-
 men), 279.
 Crater, D. L., 234.
 Crawford, Albert, 246.
 Cresheim, 145.
 Croll, "Daddy," 297.
 Crooked Billet, battle, 396; mas-
 sacre, 396.
 Crooked Hill, Hotel, 10; Tavern,
 340; proprietors of, 342.
 Culp, Joseph, 257.
 Currie, William, 322; Prof. David,
 322.
 Custer, George, 320.

D

DaCosta, 237.
 Damages at Camp Towamensing,
 118.
 Dambly, Hon. B. Witman, 114.
 Davies, Mordecai, 60.
 Davis, Edward M., 147; General
 W. H. H., 185; John, 333; L.
 H., 344; Rev. P. S., D. D., 2.
 "DeKaft Institute," 2.
 Delaware Indians, 341.
 Delegates to Provincial Conven-
 tion, 31.
 Dengler, Rev. J. G., 169.
 Dering, Henry, 342; Kitty, 342;
 Henry, Jr., 342.
 Deserter (John Farndon), Hung,
 117.
 Detwiler, Jacob K., 116; Abram
 L., 116.

Deweese, Matthew, 333; Elizabeth,
 333; Mary, 333; Robert, 333.
 Dimond, Francis, 290.
 Dobbins, Richard J., 144.
 Dock, Christopher (Mennonite),
 138.
 "Dodderer," George Philip, 1.
 Dotterer, Michael, Capt., 33, 39;
 Henry Sassman, birth, baptism,
 1; school days of, 2; printer,
 companions, teacher, profes-
 sion, 2; married, 3; goes west,
 3; assistant treasurer, 3; his-
 torian, 42; publications, 5, 6;
 death, 8; Philip, 1; Conrad, 1.
 Drinkhouse, Jacob, 344.
 Drowned at Vanderslice Ford,
 248.
 Dunkards or Brethren, 69.
 Dunker, 123, 269.
 Dutch, settlers, 68.

E

Early Pennsylvania Literature,
 122.
 Eckert, Andrew, 394.
 Eckerlin, Israel, 135.
 Eckstein, John, 281.
 Ecton, Consolidated Mining Com-
 pany, 222.
 Edge Hill, School, 106; Skirmish
 at, 172, 181.
 Edwards, Major John, 247, 258.
 Egolf, Gus., 139.
 Eight Cornered School House, 20.
 Elkins, William L., 147.
 Ellis, Nathaniel Missimer, 392;
 fellow students, 392; married,
 392; burgess, councilman,
 school director, 395; Colonel,
 395.
 Elliot, John, Jr., 334.
 Elwood School, 226.
 Ephrata, Kloister, 282; Commu-
 nity, 124; Cloister, 131, 135.
 Erskine, Sir William, 187.
 Evangelical Lutheran Congrega-
 tion, 85, 87; Church, Pottstown,
 87; First in Hatfield, 159.
 Evansburg, 80, 296; Washington
 at, 43.
 Evans, Rowland, 258, 259; Cad-
 wallader, 270; Rev. L. Kryder,
 D. D., 345.
 Ewing, James S., 253; "Eyeseck,"
 278.

F

Fagley, John, 12; farm, 20; Noah,
 Frederick, 20; John, Frederick,
 Elias, John S., 25; statements
 of Elias and John S., 26-28.
 Fagley's Heights, 20, 26.
 Fagleysville, 19, 20.

Falkner's Swamp, 278; Reformed Church, 17; valley, 20, 31.
 Family Names, of Hatfield township, 158, 159.
 Famine, near Fagleysville, 30.
 Famous, Jacob, 334.
 Farmer, Edward, 258.
 Farmer, Justice, 279.
 Farndon, John (deserter), hung, 117.
 Fatland, Ford, 23, 233, 234, 238, 245, 261, 295, 297, 254, 269; farm, 253.
 Female Seminary, Montgomery, 52.
 Fetterolf, Prof. A. H., 49; Capt. H. H., 49, 52.
 Fifty-first Regt. Pa. Vols., 379; Monument at Antietam, 379; captured bridge at Antietam, 380; mustered in, 382; history of, 382; re-enlisted, 383; in Grand Review, 384; flags of, 384.
 First Iron Made in Pennsylvania, 346.
 First School House in Upper Merion, 331; teachers in Norristown, 198; Board, 197.
 Fish Dams in River, 243.
 Fisher, Rev. P. S., 169; Miles, 235.
 Fitzwater, Abel, 248.
 Fitzgerald, John, 297.
 Fleckenstein, Rev. E. S., 91.
 "Flying Camp," 183.
 Foreman, General, 31.
 Forman, General, 120.
 Fornance, John, Engineer, U. S. Navy, 2; Capt. James, 13th Infantry U. S. A., 2.
 Fornance, Joseph, 302.
 "Fort Hanna," 215.
 Forty-foot Road, 68, 114, 116.
 Foulke, E., 324.
 Fountain Inn, 234.
 Fox, Rev. W. B., 91.
 "Fractur Schrift," 139.
 Fraley, Frederick, 147.
 Francis, Capt. Arnold, 260.
 Frankford Land Company, 346.
 Franklin, Benjamin, 24, 126, 132.
 Frederick township Militia Company, 33.
 Free text-books (1878), 202.
 Freeland, 47, 48, 49, 52; Seminary, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52; history of, 44; aims of, 45; cemetery, 47.
 French Creek, 14, 16.
 Frey, Henry, 283; William, 283; Andrew, 283; William, 39.
 Friends Corners, 62.
 Friends of Truth, 94; Welsh, 331.
 Fries, John, 169; Rebellion, 160.
 Fruitville, 19.

Fry, Henry, 11, 158; John, 291; Jacob (Auditor General), 74; Jacob, 37.
 Fuller, Benjamin, 118.
 Funk, Henrich, 135, 161.
 Funk, Henry, 135, 141, 161.

G

Gates, General, 119.
 Gauber, John Adam, 283.
 General Pike Hotel, 395.
 George of Brunswick (King), 121.
 Gerhart, Rev. Henry, 83.
 German Reformed Congregation, 85.
 German, settlers, 68, 123; pioneers, 123; reformed, 123; Baptist Brethren, 125, 132; books by Beissel, 125; first, newspaper in America, 126; calendar (High), 128; first, book in America, 129.
 Germantown, 125, 277, 278; battle of, 17, 114; defeat at, 27; monument to dead, 122.
 Germantown Blues, 63.
 Germantown & Norristown Railroad, 290.
 General Wayne, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 32.
 Gibbs, Prof., 230.
 Gilead Pastorate, 227.
 Girard Collège, 44.
 Girard, Stephen, 222.
 Glacken, Samuel L., 394.
 Glenn, Thomas Allen, 321.
 Glenwood Hall, 54.
 Gmelen, Matthias, 283.
 Godshalk, Hon. William, 385; Just, 390.
 Goldsmith, Christian, farm of, 27.
 Goshenhoppen Church, old, 86, 277.
 Gotwals, Prof. Joseph K., 197.
 Grant, General, 187.
 Graves of Revolutionary soldiers.
 Graves, of miners, 257; indians, 258; slaves, 258; Revolutionary soldiers, 257.
 Gray, General, 15.
 Great Road, 18, 340, 343.
 Green, Fred., 224.
 Green, General, 42, 120, 317, 352.
 Green Tree Hotel, 11, 224.
 Greist, Jesse, 20, 25; Captain, 28.
 Grubb, Bishop, N. B., statement of, 36.
 Gulph, Hills, 171; Rock (Monument), 188; mills, 188, 320; mills burned, 320; grist mill, 320; creek, 325; lodge of Odd Fellows, 328.
 Gwynedd Quaker Meeting, 68.

H

Hackman, Rev. W. G., 83.
 Hahn, Captain, 26; Philip, 33;
 "Buss," 292; Ned, 292.
 Haldeman, Matthias, 17.
 Hallowell, Morris L., 147; Mary
 S. (Mrs. Isaac Lippincott), 147.
 Hamilton, Colonel, 297; Alexander,
 311.
 Hammond, Charles, 148.
 Hancock, General Winfield Scott,
 214; Colonel John, 214, 308.
 Hangen, Rev. Jacob William, 82.
 Harmer Hill School, 105.
 Harper's Ferry, 381.
 "Harriton," 175.
 Hartley, Colonel, 117.
 Hartley's Regiment, Colonel, 117.
 Hartranft, General John Frederic,
 2, 19, 383; Samuel, 19.
 Haskill, Rev. John Bachman, 227.
 Hatfield Township, 156; roads,
 156; schools, 157; churches, 157;
 "plains," 156; family names,
 158, 159; settlers, 159.
 Heacock School, 112.
 "Head of Elk," 294.
 Heckerlein, the younger, 282.
 Heckler, James Y., 76.
 Heebner, Hannah, 385.
 Heilig, Rev. George, 86.
 Helfenstein, Rev. Dr. Samuel, 82.
 Henderson, Wallace, William,
 Davis, 327.
 Henry, William, 31.
 "Herrites," 162.
 Herstine, Mennonite Meeting, 41.
 Hessians, 309.
 Heston, Colonel Edward, 175.
 Hestonville, 175.
 Hiester, Daniel, General, 34.
 High, German calendar, 128;
 Pennsylvania Historian, 128.
 Highley, George, 262.
 Hill, George A. O., 86.
 Hillingass, Michael, 34.
 "Hills on Schuylkill," The, 305.
 History Freeland Seminary, 44.
 History of Towamencin township,
 some unwritten, 57.
 Hitner, Harry G., 16.
 Hobart Family, The, 348.
 Hobson, Frank M., 47.
 Hocker Tavern, 158.
 Hockertown, 159.
 Hoffecker, Reuben F., 58; County
 Superintendent of Schools, 58.
 Hoffman, John, 324.
 "Hogtown," 264.
 Hollanders, 68.
 Holstein, General H. L. D. Du
 Cordray, 185; Henry, 283;
 Major, 290; Hannah, 322;

George W. H., 327, 330; Memoirs,
 327.
 Horsham Meeting House, 397.
 Hotchkiss, Rev. S. F., 144.
 Howe, General, 16, 176, 177, 178,
 245, 261, 308, 351; William, 21;
 Sir William, 295.
 Huber, Rev. S. M. K., 81.
 Hughes, Col., 183; John, 308, 321;
 Isaac, 322, 323; Ruth, Richard,
 Sarah, Hannah, 322; John J.,
 325.
 Hunsicker, Rev. Abraham, 44, 45;
 Henry A., 45, 46, 48; Benjamin
 A., 47.
 Hunter, Perry, 320.
 Hynderleyder, Michael, 342.

I

Indian, Creek, 71; congregation,
 71; Reformed Church, 163.
 Indian, Graves (?), 258; Tribes,
 346; Chief Sassouan, 346.
 Iron Forge, Valley Forge, 262.
 Irving, Washington, 239.
 Ives, Jesse, Miller, 394.
 "Ivy Green" School House, 110.

J

Jack, Andrew, 263.
 Jackson, Hill, 23.
 "Jack's," School, 250; house, 264;
 tavern, 263.
 Jacksonville School House, 23.
 Jagers, Joseph, 291.
 Jamison, Major, 296.
 Jarrett, Samuel F., 250.
 Jay, John, 311.
 Johnson, Ben, 292.
 Johnston, Governor William
 Freame, 300.
 Jones, Mrs. A. Conrad, 385.

K

Kauman (Audubon), 237.
 Keeley's, Church at Schwenks-
 ville, 17, 87, 88, 89; cemetery,
 41.
 Keelor's Reformed Church, 1, 2.
 Kennedy, Robinson, 297.
 Kerr, Capt., 398.
 Ketchum, General, death of, 330.
 Keyser's Mill, 80, 223.
 King-of-Prussia, 331.
 King's Stamp Office, 321.
 Kinzie, Squire, 322; Daniel, 328.
 Kirk, Rev. J. W., 148.
 Kline, Jesse, 293.
 "Know Nothings," 65.
 Knox, General, 120, 352.
 Kohler, Rev. J., 89.
 Kolb, Dickman, 135, 141, 161.

Konders (or Kinders), Dennis, 57.
 Kooker, John, 233.
 Kooker Mill, 72.
 Kratz, Hon. Henry W., 233.
 Krause, Anna Maria, 343.
 Kriebel, Henry S., 118; Abraham K., 271; Allen K., 271; H. W., 188; Melchoir, 284; Mill, 72.
 Kulpville, 59, 73.
 Kuntz, Jacomyntje, 251.

L

Lacey, General John, 178, 397.
 La Fayette, General, 185, 234, 352.
 Land of the Llewellen, 206.
 Lansdale, 85, 168.
 Latch, John, 324.
 Laurens, Henry, 30; John, 30.
 Lawrenceville (Parker Ford), 295.
 Lead Mine Discovered, 262.
 "Lee, Will," 297.
 Leech, Toby, 147; Samuel T., 147.
 Leidig, Mrs. Phillip, 39; burying ground, 39.
 Leidy, Jacob S. (and family), 167.
 Leidy, Peter, 32.
 Leidy's Church, 167; pastors, 169; first Sunday School, 168; cemetery, 170.
 Leidy's Reformed Church, 83.
 Lennox Library, 239.
 Lessig, George B., 348.
 Lewis, Morris, 258.
 Limerick, Chuch, 18.
 Limerick Square, 20.
 Line Lexington, 156.
 Link, Rev. A. S., 88.
 Lippincott, Mrs. Isaac, 147.
 Llewellyn Plantation, 209.
 Loch, Henry, 158.
 Loch, Dr. John W., 2.
 Longabough, George, Miller, 394.
 Longstreet, General, 381.
 Lord, Sterling, 117; Stirling, 117.
 Lower, Capt. Peter, 33.
 Lowry, Thomas, 323.
 Luther, Charles S., 148.
 Lutheran, 123; Swamp Church, 20.
 Luckens, John, 57; Joseph, 57.
 Luckenbill, Rev. B. F., 169.
 Lukens, John, 118.
 Lyle, Charles, 334; W. H., 334.

M

Mabis, Joseph, 13.
 Mackinet, Blasius, 283.
 Maclay, William, 315.

Macungie, 277.
 Mainland, 61.
 Malvern, 16.
 Manatawny road, 67, 340, 343, 347; creek, 296, 346.
 Manor of Mt. Joy, 321.
 Marble, fine vein of, 270; Hall, 300; for Washington Monument, 300.
 Markley, Capt. Benjamin, 22, 34; farm, 25; mill, 79.
 Marshall, John, Chief Justice, 294.
 Martin, Richard, 146; Miss Maria (Audubon's sister-in-law), 227.
 Martyr's Mirror, 140, 161.
 Maryland, Line, 42.
 Master, Christopher, 65.
 Mather, C. (Squire), 144.
 Matthews, Edward, 156.
 Matthias Haldeman, 7.
 Matson's Ford, 174; (Matron Ford), 186.
 Maxims of Robert Morris, 303.
 Maxwell, General, 120, 296.
 McCall, George, 346, 347; Samuel J., 347; tract, 346; Manor, 346.
 McClellan, General, 381.
 McCready, Bernard, 332; Mills, 332.
 McDougall, General, 20, 30, 40, 41, 297.
 McGill, Capt., 399.
 McNair, Admiral Frederick V., 2.
 McPherson, James, 334.
 McQuaide, James P. (donation), 203.
 Megg's Lane, 215.
 "Meneeley," bill, 106.
 Mennonites, 37, 68, 123, 157, 158, 159, 272; meeting house, 114, 390; church, 45.
 Mercantile Library, 239.
 Merion in the Welsh Tract, 321.
 Merkel, George, 283.
 Meschianza, Knights of, 185.
 Methacton, 278.
 Middle Ferry, 174.
 Milestown, 148.
 Miller, Rev. Henry S., 87; Jackson, 297; Joseph, 297; Peter, 139, 142, 282; Timothy, 244.
 Mill Grove, 223, 259; house, 225; farm, 233, 238, 241, 259; ford, 249, 250; mill, 249; plantation and mills (title), 258.
 Mill Park, 347; hotel, 348, 352.
 Milltown School House, 102.
 Mineral Spring, 37.
 Mine Run (Copper), 222, 224, 263.
 Mining, 262.
 Minnich, Rev. Michael Reed, 226.
 Mintzer, William, 393.
 Misshaminy River (Skippack Creek), 59.

Mitchell, Amos, 146; Betsey, 146.
 Montgomery County Schools and
 School Houses, old time, 96;
 Abington Friends, 95; Rubicam,
 97; Hicks, 98; Williams, 100;
 George K. Heller, 101; Middle,
 103; Shoemaker, 104; Auden-
 reid, 105; LaMott, 106; Ash-
 bourne, 107; Cheltenham High,
 107; Edge Hill, 108; Wyncote,
 109; Cheltenham Military Acad-
 emy, 109; Ogontz Seminary,
 111; Cheltenham Hill School, 112.
 Montgomery, Female Institute,
 53; Female Seminary, 52; coun-
 ty, 263; Rev. Richard, 148.
 Monthly Meeting of Dublin, 95.
 Monument, at Gulph Rock, 188;
 to Towamensing Camp dead,
 122; to Colonel Jacob Reed, 155.
 Moore, Mordecai R., 291; Bethel,
 320; M. R., 324.
 Moravian, 123; church, 274.
 Morgan, James, 243, 258.
 Morgan's Corner, 324.
 Morris, Robert, 303; financier,
 304; Hamilton's tribute to, 304;
 "Folly," 305; Gouverneur, 311;
 Senator, 311; Comfort Sands,
 312; letters, 314; death, 319;
 Samuel, C., 258; Anthony, 347;
 Mill, 68.
 Morse, first telegraph message,
 393.
 Mott, Lucretia, 45, 148; James,
 148.
 Mount, Joy, 242; Misery, 242.
 Mud Island, 42.
 Muhlenberg's Journal, 295, 297.
 Mulvany, Daniel H., 327.
 Murphy, Francis, 331.
 Myers & Ervien's Factory, 145.

N

Naille, Rev. John, 83, 84.
 Names of Early Settlers, 142.
 Nash, General, 63, 116, 117, 118;
 Francis, 70, 114; burial of, 120;
 burial place, 390.
 Natural Sciences, The Academy
 of, 327.
 Negro Camp at Cheltenham, 148.
 Neissen, George, 285.
 New Hanover Square, 26; Militia
 Company, 33.
 "New Measure" Movement, 88.
 Newton, Rev. Richard, 147.
 Nitschmann, 131, 283.
 Norrington, 246.
 Norristown, 246, 243; First School
 Board, 197; Academy, 197;
 Schools, 198, 199; School Di-
 rectors, 204.

Norrington Township, 243.
 North, Colonel, 341.
 Northern Army (Success of), 120.
 North Wales, 67; Road, 67.
 Norwood Hall, 111.
 Nugent, George, 323; death of,
 327; George J., Eugene, Ella,
 Elizabeth, George W., Rosanna,
 Tobias Wagner, Charles, John,
 Maria, 325; Rosanna, 325; Dr.
 George W., 227.
 Nutt's road, 234.

O

Oaks, 249.
 Oak Street School, 198.
 "Oath of Allegiance," 34.
 Oberholtzer, Jacob, 63; Catharine,
 63; David, 158; Ellis P., 303.
 Officers and Men at Camp Dis-
 charge, 219.
 Ogontz, 104; School at, 147.
 Old "Dutch," cemetery (Ard-
 more), 210; families, 250;
 gravestones, 256; Goshenhop-
 pen Church, 86; Swedes
 (Christ) Church, 323.
 Olney, George, 318.
 "Orderley Book," 116.
 Overholtzer, Catharine, 390.

P

Packer, Governor William F.,
 396.
 Palmer, Sarah, 256.
 Paoli, 15, 16; Massacre, 21.
 Parker, Ford, 14, 18, 43, 233, 295,
 296, 351.
 Parvin, Rev. Robert J., 147.
 Pastorious, Francis Daniel, 346.
 Pawling, family The, 250; ford,
 247; Henry, 250; will of, 251;
 William, 247; John, 247; bridge
 Co., 247; bridge, 247, 249, 263;
 Henry, 251; John Henry, Ben-
 jamin, Nathan, Jesse, William,
 Rachel, 251; Catharine, 252;
 Henry (Second), Judge, 256;
 commission of, 252; Henry 3d,
 252.
 tomb of, 251; Levi, John, 251;
 Pay Pupils, 203.
 Penn, William, 57, 226, 242, 258,
 346; John, 23, 258, 259, 346;
 Thomas, 277; Guilema Marie,
 321.
 Pennebacker's Mill, 15.
 Pennebecker's Mill, 31, 42.
 Pennsylvania, Female College,
 52, 53, 55, 56; incorporation of,
 53; militia, 177, 179; Land
 Company, 243.
 Pennypacker, Hon. Samuel W.,
 (Governor), 3, 5, 123, 139.

Pennypecker's Mills, 114, 118.
 Perkasie Manor, 277.
 "Perkiomen Region," The, 5.
 Perkiomen, bridge, 46, 53; camp, 19; creek, 15, 263, 296; the Cranberry creek, 279; railroad, 47; "Region," 131; Mining Association, 222; Consolidated Mining Company, 223; Lead Mining Company, 257; Meeting (old), 71.
 Philadelphia, 23, 270.
 Phillips, Wendell, 148; S. D., 334.
 Phoenixville, 14, 234, 249, 263.
 Pickering, Colonel, 30, 119; John, 30; creek, 243.
 Pietist, 123.
 Pike, General, Hotel, 395.
 Pine Forge, 347.
 "Pious" Miller of Indian Creek, 135.
 Plain Meeting House, 158.
 Plumb, Ben., 290.
 Politics, Towamencin, 73.
 "Pool Forge," 346.
 "Poplar Lane," 322.
 Porter, David R. (Governor), 302.
 Port Providence, 244.
 Potter's Escape, General James, 175, 296.
 Pottsgrove, 19, 295, 347, 351; Camp, 17; hospital, 17.
 Potts, Thomas, Colonel, 34, 352; William, 283; Captain Thomas, 290; John, 295; commission as Magistrate, 347; death of, 349; Benedict, 290; Henry, 325; 394; Dr. Jonathan, 380; David, Jr., 394.
 Pottstown, 19, 296, 347; Churches and pastors, 355; Sunday Schools, 359; cemeteries, 362; Schools, 363; Hill School, 363; incorporation, 364; laid out, 347; first inhabitants, 348; family names, 349; taverns, 349; as a manufactory town, 365; enterprise, 366; effort to become a county seat, 367; boundary, 368; contributors to expense fund, 369; circular in interest, 373; Stover's letter favoring new county seat, 373; an end to effort to become a county seat, 377.
 Pottstowners in the Revolution, 350.
 Preparative Meeting, 100.
 President of Congress (St. Clair), 351.
 Preston, Jared T., 50.
 Prevost, Augustine, 234, 258.
 Price, Dr. Richard, 304.
 Priestley, Prof. Joseph, 255.
 Printing Establishments, 124.

Private Burying Grounds, of Franconia Township, 161.
 Proctor, Joseph, 167.
 Prospect Hill, 18, 20, 21.
 Providence, Meeting, 266; township, 15, 263.
 Provincial Convention, 31, 32.
 Public Schools of Norristown, 197.
 Pulaski, Count, 120.
 Pupils of Union School, 334.

Q

"Quadrupeds of North America," 232.
 Quaint Advertisements, 247, 254.
 Quakers, 68, 157.
 Quaker Meeting House, 106.
 "Queen's Rangers," The, 396.

R

Rachob, Mr., 64.
 Railroad trains, two a day, 393.
 Ramsey, T. H., 334.
 Rare Minerals at Shannonville (Audubon), 225.
 Reading, 15, 24, 295; boats, 352; hospitals, 38.
 Read's, General, Library, 311.
 Rebel Hill, 84.
 Redemptioners (Servants), 267.
 Red Lion Hotel, 347.
 Reed, Captain Andrew, 33; Colonel Jacob, 34, 159; Capt. Philip, 159; Colonel Joseph's letter, 176; Dr. Willoughby H., 242; Colonel Jacob's monument, 155.
 Reformed Church, Keelors, 1; of Ascension, 2; Race street, 3; First, 3; of Pennsylvania, 6.
 Reformed (Swamp) Church, 20; farm, 18, 19.
 Reiff, Jacob, 71; Benjamin, 81.
 Reiner, Jacob, 158.
 Revolutionary Cannon, finding of, 290; cut up, 293.
 Revolutionary, Relics, 28, 246; Fagley's collection of, 29; soldier, last, 344.
 Rhawn, William H., 153.
 Rhoads, Joseph, 262.
 Richards, Captain Peter, 33; Rev. John W., 87; Isaac, 334; Louis, 348.
 Richardson, William H., 135, 234.
 Ridge Valley Church, 92.
 Ringing Rocks Hill, 18.
 Rising Sun Hotel, 352.
 Ritter, Francis, 283.
 Roberts, Hon. Jonathan, 327; Senator, 327; lecturer, 328; Ellwood, 338; John M., 331; William B., 331; Matthew, 331; Jonathan, 351.

Rochambeau, 310.
 Roeller, Rev. George, 86.
 Rosier, Ferdinand, 237.
 Rowe, Robert, John (Copper Miners), 222.
 Royer, John, 393.
 Rubican, Justice William, 97;
 School, 97.
 Rumford, General, 63.
 Rush, Dr. Benjamin, 304.
 Rutter, David, 153; Thomas, 346.

S

Sachse, Julius, 123.
 Sanatoga, hotel, 10; park, 10; valley, 18, 19, 20; inn, 343; creek, 343.
 Sassafras Wood Canteen, 27.
 Saur, Christopher, 124, 126-29, 136; press (printing), 124, 126; first book, 129; first German Bible in America, 133; quarrels with Beissel, 130; printing, 134-140.
 Saw Mill at Mill Grove, 262.
 Schall, Colonel Edwin, 384.
 Schlinghoof, Mr. (Slingluff), 281.
 Schmeck, Rev. B. S., 169.
 Schmidt, Jost, 283.
 School Board, The first, 196.
 School on Horseback, 250.
 School Saving System, 102, 202.
 Schools of Norristown, Public, 197; directors, 204.
 Schultz, Joseph K., 119.
 Schuylkill river, 23, 243; falls, 12, 13; canal, 224; Navigation Company, 243; fish dams, 243.
 Schwenkfeld, Casper, 189.
 Schwenkfelder's, 68, 70, 123, 188; burying ground, 71.
 Schwenk, Nicholas, 118.
 Seiss, Rev. C. Few, 227; Rev. Dr. Joseph A., 228.
 Sellers, Samuel, 167.
 Sellersville, 167.
 Seventh Day Baptists, 280.
 Shad fishery, 243, 352.
 Shannonsville, Copper Mines, 222; officers of, 224.
 Shainline, George W., 334.
 Shaw, Rev. William, 325.
 Sheive, George, 158.
 Shoemaker, Robert, 105, 145; Thomas H., 147; burying ground, 147.
 Shoemakertown, 104; school, 104.
 Shrawder, Joseph, drowned, 248.
 "Siebentaegers," 282.
 Siedensticker, Dr., 123.
 Sill, Rev. George, 88.
 Simcoe, Col. J. G., 336; Lieutenant Governor, Upper Canada, 336.

Skippack, Village, 80, The (Poem), 76.
 Smallwood, General, 120.
 Smith, Lieut, 70; burial place of, 70; shot carrying flag of truce, 121.
 Smyth, Samuel Gordon, 171, 321.
 Snare Tavern, 158.
 Solitary Brethren, 140.
 Sorver, Jacob, 81, 85, 93.
 Souders, John D., 161; Henry, 168.
 Souderton, 168.
 Sower, Charles G., 131, 139.
 Spangenburg, 131, 275, 276, 280, 283.
 Spang, Sheriff, 291; Hotel, 291.
 Spanish cigars, 394.
 Speck, Miss Carrie V., 102.
 Springhouse and Sumneytown Turnpike, 67, 85.
 Spring Mill Ferry, 268.
 Springs, Chain's, Crawford's, Bulls', Rittenhouse', Norris', Shannon's, etc., 296.
 Sprogel, Henry, 346.
 St. Andrew (vessel), 275.
 St. Clair, General Arthur, 350; President of Congress, 351; Governor North West Territory, 351; burial place of, 351.
 St. James' Episcopal Church, 296.
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 147, 151.
 Stanley, Thomas, 335.
 Stare, John, 244.
 Steamboat on Towamensing Creek, 65.
 Stedman, Capt. of the "St. Andrew," 275.
 Stephens, John, 321.
 Sterigere, John B., 290.
 Sterling, Lord, 117, 184.
 Steuben, Baron, 352.
 Stewart, William, 331; Will, 332; Fund Hall, 331; enlarged, 336; trustees of, 336; contributors to, 336; lectures, 336; library, 336; William, 335.
 Stiefel, George, 283.
 Stillwater, Battle of, 119.
 Stirling, Lord, 117; General, 120.
 "Stoke Pogis," 181.
 Story of My Youth, 254.
 Strassburger, Jacob A., 385.
 Stryer, Dr. Samuel, 258.
 Sullivan, General, 115.
 Sunderland, Prof. J. Warren, LL.D., 45; James Warrenne, 53; Mrs. James Warrenne, 52; Madame Lu Annie, 52.
 Sutcliff, Robert, 265.
 Swedes Ford, 14, 175, 233, 291, 294, 296, 396; road, 13.

T

Taylor House, 191.
 Telegraph Operator, first, 393.
 The "Queen's Rangers," 396.
 Thiry, Prof. J. H. (father of School Savings), 103.
 Thomas, John W., 147; Mrs. John W., 153; Ellwood, 335; William, 335; William F. (Sergeant), 380.
 Thompson's Tavern, 233, 296.
 Thoms, William, 262.
 Tilghman, Colonel, 312.
 Todd, William Tennant, 44; school house, 45.
 Toombs, General Robert, 381.
 Towamencin, taverns, 72; politics, 73; township, 67; early settlers, 68; churches, 70; meeting house, 271; burying grounds, 70; schools, 71-72; mills, 72.
 Towamensing, 58; Creek (big), 57; (little) 57; School burned, 65; meeting house burned, 65; steamboat on creek, 68.
 Townsend (Freeland), 46.
 Trains, two a day, 393.
 Trappe, 15, 20, 83, 295, 351; Reformed Church, 82, 89; Augustus Lutheran Church, 89.
 Tredyfrin, 16.
 Treemount Seminary, 2.
 Trenton, battle of, 294.
 Trewig, Jacob, 158; town, 156.
 Trinity Reformed Church, Collegeville, 47.
 Twining's Tavern, 291; Gus, 292.
 Tyson, Samuel, 327; Mrs., 327.

U

Union, Band, 62; meeting house, 257, 258.
 Union School (Upper Merion), 332; pupils of, 334.
 University of Pennsylvania, 315.
 Societies of, 50.
 Upper Merion, 320.
 Upper Providence, 248.
 Ursinus College, 47, 49, 50, 51;

V

Valley Forge, 26, 32, 37, 75, 178, 179, 181, 182, 183, 184, 236, 246, 257, 259, 261, 291, 306; hills, 23, 245; mills, 348.
 Valley meeting, 268.
 Van Bibber, Henry, 19.
 Vanderslice, ford, 248; drowning at, 248; bridge at, 248; horse trade, 248.
 Van Horn, Thomas C., 148.

Varnum, General, 119; James M., 172.
 Vaux, James, 261.
 Virginia, Militia, 119.
 Von Braght, Tieleman J., 141.

W

Wack, Pastor Christ Reformed Church, 81.
 Wagner, Michael W., 21, 25; Martin W., 25; Abraham, 283.
 Wainwright, John, 244.
 Waldo, Dr. Albignee, 182.
 Walnut Grove, 183, 321.
 Wambold, Charles Z., 118.
 Wampole, I. W., 62; Rev. Casper, 167; Isaac, 85, 93; Rev. Jacob, 85, 86, 87; Frederick, 116, 118.
 Wanger, George Price, 134.
 War of the Fish Racks, 243.
 Warren, Dr. B. H., 239; tavern, 13, 22, 35.
 Warwick Furnace, 14, 242, 351.
 Washington, General George, 9, 12, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 41, 177, 233, 245, 261, 269, 294, 296, 298, 308, 309, 351; retreat, 9. (retreat to Pottsgrove), 9; Army at Crooked Hills, 9, 41; letters of, 12, 22, 23, 30, 31, 177, 296; letters to Congress, 298; letters from Camp Pottsgrove, 22, 23; letter to President of Congress, 23; letter from Parker Ford, 233; object of retreat to Valley Forge, 24; at Valley Forge, 245; Army at Newtown, 29; letter to Elbridge Gerry, 31; at Trappe, 43; at Evansburg, 43; at Towamensing, 118; at Whitmarsh, 173, 174; at Gulph Mills, 173, 174, 175; Camp at Fegleysville, 43; camp at Horsham Meeting, 397.
 Water Birds, Audubon's, 227.
 Wayne, General Anthony, 14, 15, 116, 117, 120, 173, 184, 394; command, 43.
 Weaver, Christian, 58.
 Weber, Christian, 57, 283.
 Webster, Daniel, 238.
 Weedon's orderly book, General, 62, 117.
 Weinberger, Prof. J. Shelley, 44, 50.
 Weiss, Lieut. Colonel Frederick, 32; George, 281, 286, 288.
 Weldon House, 41.
 Wells, Sheriff Josiah, 351.
 Welsh, Baptist, 157; Friends, 331.
 Wentz, Reformed Church, 81; Abram, 115; Peter, 119, 279; Thomas H., 326.
 Wenzel, Rev. George A., 88.

Wenzen, Jacob, 283.
 West Conshohocken, 174.
 Wetherill, Samuel, 222, 262; Rachael, 260; John McCombs, 257; William H., 233, 239; William H., Jr., 250; Mrs. J. Bloomfield, 239; Mansion, 225.
 "Weyrauch's Hügel," 131.
 Wharton, Lieut. Harry, 329; Judge, 329; Capt. and Colonel Harry, 329; Mrs. Harry, trial of, 328.
 Whigs, American, 309.
 White, Horse tavern, 13; hotel, 61; corners, 68; Major John, 114; burial of, 120.
 Whitemarsh, Church, 90; township, 300.
 Widener, P. A. B., 147.
 Williamson, Isaiah S., 329.
 Williams, Thomas (of Ogontz), 94; Anthony, 100; I. C., 123; 338; College, 226.
 Willing & Morris, 307.
 Will of Henry Pawling, 251.
 Windsor House, 291.

Winnard Legacy, The, 203; James, 332.
 Wise, J. S., 144.
 Wireman, John, 158.
 Wistar, John, 127.
 Witherspoon, Major, 115.
 Wolff, Memorial, 340; marriage announcement, 340; Christian, 342.
 Wooden Canteens, 27.
 Wyoming Mill, 332.

Y

Yellow, Springs, 14; Chester Springs, 16; fever of 1793, 257; fever burial ground, 257.
 Yerrick, Rev. W. R., 169.
 Yorke, Edward, 347.
 Yost, Col. D. M., 379; Jacob S., 393.

Z

Zieber, Philip, 158.
 Ziegenfuss, Rev. S. A., 92.
 Zinzendorf, 131, 273, 274, 275.

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3973

